

STOKE-POGES AND CHURCH OF ST. GILES.

THE
REMAINS
OF
WILLIAM PENN.

PENNSYLVANIA'S PLEA,
THE MISSION TO ENGLAND, VISIT TO THE GRAVE,
LETTERS, ETC.

GEORGE L. HARRISON.

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INSCRIBED
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY
HENRY M. HOYT
GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA;

WHOSE CONFIDENCE AND FRIENDSHIP IMPELLED ME TO THE UNDERTAKING,
WHICH IS RECORDED IN THIS VOLUME; AND WHOSE INTEREST
IN ITS SUCCESS DESERVES THE GRATITUDE AND
RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

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THE PROPOSED TRANSFER
OF THE
REMAINS OF WILLIAM PENN
FROM
ENGLAND TO AMERICA.

AS the time for the celebration of the Bicentennial Anniversary of the landing of William Penn on our shores draws nigh, public curiosity will no doubt be quickened to know why the chief and most significant of the ceremonial, by which it was proposed to honor the memory of the first proprietor of Pennsylvania, is lacking:—namely, the transfer of his remains from England to the custody of the State and City which he founded, and whose interests were dear to him to the latest hour of his life.

For this reason it has seemed to me, that this would be the proper time to publish a narrative

of the effort made by the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, to secure this transfer;—of the reasons why the effort was made; and, of the reasons, also, of its failure. The formal account of my proceedings in the execution of this mission will appear in my report to Governor Hoyt, who commissioned me for the service, and which will form a part of this publication.

In addition to the grounds asserted in this report, as fully sufficient to sustain the action of the Legislature, which induced the undertaking, my respect for this action and for its commendation and furtherance by other distinguished authorities, urges me to adduce new reasons and employ new arguments in favor of the proposition, and of the earnest and laborious efforts which were made to promote it.

It will not be amiss, therefore, to consider why especial honor is due from Pennsylvania to her Founder.

There is, I think, a wide-spread popular misapprehension as to both the character and purposes of William Penn. By the majority of careless readers and thinkers, he is regarded merely as a sort of landlord, with somewhat broader and shrewder views than belonged to his time.

American literature, pictures and statues, all vaguely give us the idea that he was, at the time of his landing in the new world, a rather dull man, middle-aged in youth, inflexible in justice and in gravity; in short, without a single venial shortcoming—the very type and exponent of the straightest of his sect.

Unfortunately his stay in his proprietary was short, and, during his absence, his maligners were active; hence there are few pleasant personal traditions of him, lingering among us. Even his code of laws is so absorbed and thoroughly incorporated in those of later date, that the people, who are every day benefited by its provisions, know nothing of the origin of their sagacity, their liberality, their purity.

As to William Penn himself, unselfish, lavish in generosity, careless in the details of business,—though a shrewd and politic manager,—an imaginative enthusiast, a doting father, a stubborn zealot in opinion, and a courtly cavalier in manners: He was, in a word, the most remarkable compound, which his remarkable time produced, of great intellectual powers, alloyed with many imperfections. The present generation is almost a stranger to the man.

Like all human souls intended to be leaders of mankind, William Penn was born into the world at the very time and place that it had need of him. It is only in the poet's rhyme, that ineffectual Hampdens and Miltons sleep mute and inglorious in village graves. Almost without exception, no moral force has ever perished unused in the great concourse of humanity; nor, indeed, was any man ever born in advance of his time; unless so far, it may be said, as the horse precedes the load, in order that he may draw it. In this individual instance, at least, the world was waiting for a certain work to be done, and when the hour came, the workman was ready. It must be remembered that this hour was the crisis of centuries of misery and anarchy in society and politics and religion. Throughout Europe, the increasing burden of oppression, laid by the upper classes on the poor, had become, at last, intolerable. In the towns, little children, just emerged from the cradle, were driven to labor in the mills, to keep themselves alive. Starving mothers were hanged for stealing a loaf of bread. In the fields, old men and women were harnessed to the plough. The huts, the food and, one might almost say, the education of the agricultural laborer in England,

France and Germany, were inferior to such as we would give, now, to our cattle. A few years before, the Black Death had swept over Europe, carrying millions of paupers out of the filth and the foul air, the want and the brutal ignorance, which had produced the mighty destroyer. Meanwhile the Courts of Christendom displayed, during this era, an exceptional splendor, barbaric and extreme. Enormous incomes and vast estates were lavished by the monarchs of Europe on their parasites, male and female, without regard to decency or honor. Charles' court, for example, was as rich in chances for amassing wealth, as our modern California has ever been; but that golden mine was only for the courtier, who was cunning and unscrupulous enough to descend to the degradation, which was essential to the privilege of working it. Religious power was every whit as tyrannical and inhuman as that of social caste. Its tendencies and acts became heartless and cruel, in proportion to its acquired strength. The "Catholic" tortured and burned the Protestant: The "Churchman," when he had power, massacred the Puritan: The Puritan, when his chance came, revenged his wrongs on the Baptist brother. A canting cruelty, in short, in high

places, had assumed the name of Christianity, and, in low places, the reaction against it, in the minds of the wronged and enraged illiterate masses, took shape in a rebellion of fanaticism, of utter unbelief, or, of a mad superstition, whose frantic outbursts had in them strange echoes of demoniac darkness.

The most venerated cathedrals in England were desecrated to the use of stables. Atheistic blacksmiths and drunken tailors, proclaiming themselves to be Deity, preached in the highways and converted many followers; the Messiah was born again in England, Germany and France; men starved themselves to death; human sacrifices were frequent; fathers slew their children; mothers crucified their own white-haired mothers—all to appease an angry, implacable God. Every form of religious faith and religious scepticism was struggling through this fermenting chaos, excepting the pure, simple truths of Christianity itself, which seemed, for the time, hidden in this vortex of disorder.

Into this day of gloom, when oppression of body and despair of soul were the normal conditions of life in Europe, William Penn was born. He was the son, on one side, of a courtier, probably as brave, as keen-witted, as artful and unscrupu-

lous as any in England ; and, on the other, of an unworldly, speculative, dreamy, German mother. The circumstances of his life were largely moulded by his father; his character and genius he owed to his mother. Sir William Penn was then the first sea-captain in Europe. He held his stout arm and his shrewd brain at the service of King or Protector, whichever should bid the highest. He had but one motive in life ; ambition for his son. He had given him, already, the material for high content, in affluence, distinguished lineage and a home abounding in comfort and not ungilded by splendor. But, besides all this, he meant to secure for him standing-ground at Court, from which he could win his way upward. What more, according to his theory of life, could a father do for a son ? But, even then, the boy knew that this was not enough. He had sound health and the superb physical development of a young athlete. He was trained, as the son of a Courtier, to expertness in all deeds of grace and gallantry. He rode, danced and fenced with singular skill, taking keen delight in all. But the lad, in the midst of the gay, courtly life about him, was like a sapling oak in a flower-bed. He had certain rugged traits, which baffled all smoothing

processes. The habits of the people about him were cruel and inhuman, but he was kind, with a peculiar womanly kindness, to animals, to the poor, to all helpless creatures. The boy, too, had strange moods; he lived apart at times for weeks, in absolute silence. He saw visions, he dreamed strange dreams. Soft lights shone about him in the darkness, he heard voices from heaven or hell, telling him what to do. Out from these visions he would come, pale, trembling, wet with cold sweat. In a day or two, what with the chase, his horse or his sword-play, he would forget his visions and his voices. Here, in this hint of his boyhood, is outlined William Penn's whole life. By nature a seer, a religious leader, he was perpetually dragged, by circumstances, into the slough of the world. The facts of his history are but the data of this exhaustive struggle in his soul, by which, at last, the world was so greatly the gainer, and, by which, the physical man himself perished.

The eager youth at Oxford, having out-stripped all his fellows as scholar and athlete, suddenly turned his back upon them, to become the disciple of the despised fanatic, the "quaker Loe," whom he found preaching eternal life on a common. Alone he went down into the depths of his

own consciousness, to wrestle with the dreadful mysteries, death and life. At eighteen he came out boldly, a guileless, undoubting young David, who would put an end to the great giant corruption, with his own little stone and sling. The court and people of England, he declared, were plunged in darkness and debauchery. He was expelled from Oxford for his opinions. His worldly old father beat and starved the fervid young ascetic, then turned him out of doors;—but all in vain. Then, with shrewder policy, he sent his son to France, to the court of the French king, Louis Quatorze, by whom he was welcomed and caressed. In two years, the austere, gloomy young man came home a gallant soldier, a gay, brilliant man of the world, with that exquisite courtliness of manner which he never lost. It is the old story, which repeats itself in every man's history, of the struggle of the soul between good and evil. The prince of this world had nearly won in Penn's case. He became a prime favorite in Charles' dissolute court, and a leader in the equally corrupt vice-regal one in Ireland. He applied for military promotion. A splendid career opened itself before him. He had every quality to insure triumph in it—youth, rank, manly beauty, high intellectual power, great

personal magnetism. The golden gates of success had rolled back for him on smooth hinges, when he suddenly awoke from his pleasant dream to the stern reality. God overhead and hell underneath; and, around and about him, indescribable want, vice and wretchedness. He threw up all his chances of worldly advancement, was turned adrift penniless by his father, came forth openly as a disciple of the then poor and ridiculed sect of quakers, and was, in six months, in prison for the "truth's sake." From that time his faith never wavered, and his steady, inflexible, though gentle, determination overruled at length the stubbornness of his father, who kindly submitted to his son's course and conduct, without further contest.

I have no intention of following the life of William Penn, step by step. All are familiar with the details. It seems probable that his burning desire to help the misery around him, first took a practical shape in the idea of an American colony, while in prison. He became intimate with Whitlock, sometime Ambassador to Sweden, and, from him, heard much of the wisdom and policy of Chancellor Oxenstiern, then the purest statesman in Europe. Oxenstiern had been the chief agent employed by Gustavus Adolphus and his daughter

Christina, in forming a settlement in the great Western wilderness, in which, as Gustavus said, "every man should have enough to eat and toleration to worship God." It was a favorite hobby of the great Swede, to establish this far-off city of refuge for the down-trodden people of Europe. "It is to be," said Gustavus, "a state absolutely free, and an asylum for the oppressed of every creed," thirty years before this colony had actually been founded on the banks of the Delaware, on the very spot where Penn afterwards landed, the present city of Philadelphia. There seems to be no doubt that Penn heard of this experiment through Whitlock and Oxenstiern, and that it served to formulate and make tangible in his mind, his own long cherished scheme, or, rather, his vague dreams, for the relief of the victims of religious tyranny in England and on the Continent.

Every young man of noble instincts has, at some period, such aspirations; some plan to restore freedom and happiness to the masses, whom he sees maltreated and debased through tyranny and corruption. But, usually, these heroic dreams die out, in a busy man's life, before middle age. On the contrary, with William Penn it grew with

every year, until it absorbed all his aims and hopes. This Utopia beyond the sea, where free men could earn their bread and worship God under any creed, unmolested by noble or priest, was the practical result of all his religious struggles, his persecutions, his ambitions. It was the actual building which he was sent to rear for his fellow men, on the foundation of Christian love and pure humanity. In his later years, when the work was done, doubtless there were times, when it must have seemed to him, that he had built upon wood and stubble, rather than enduring stone. His disappointments in his colony were often discouraging and severe. Instead of an earthly paradise of God-fearing, peaceable men, frequent strifes disturbed the deliberations, and confused the action of his associates and advisers. Indeed, he himself was treated with ingratitude and basely slandered, not only in his own colony, but in his native home, where he was consigned, even in his old age, to a debtor's prison. He died a poor man; even his brain gave way under its heavy load. But, through all, his faith in his holy experiment was never shaken. No grief, nor loss, nor ingratitude would persuade him to give up his tender care of it; for it, he sacrificed the

interests of wife and children; and even in his clouded, dying moments, he turned to it with a certain exaltation of soul—the peculiar fervor which a woman feels for her first-born child, or a man for the work, in which he has come nearest to God.

It is for his labors on behalf of this country, and for those only, that his name is celebrated in the annals of mankind. We cannot, therefore, see the unreasonableness of the request, that his remains be transferred to our midst. The most highly honored of England's sons do not rest among their kindred, but under the arches of Westminster Abbey. In all ages it has been an instinct with civilized races, that they, who have signally benefited mankind, and whose character would be a helpful example to posterity, should be laid in some place of honor, where it would be impossible for the world to forget them. Greece and Rome, again and again, testified their gratitude and their large humanity in this manner. In the early history of the Christian Church, long before superstition abused the practice, it was the prevalent custom to remove the bodies of those who had suffered persecution for the faith, from the places of concealment, in which their friends had deposited them, to

some honored sanctuary, in order that such noble lives might be held in long remembrance.

These are not inappropriate examples of the case we are considering. But there is a classical precedent, which, though not entirely analogous, is relevant and suggestive.

It is the case of Alexander the Great, who, dying in the far East, instead of being interred there, or taken home to Macedonia for interment, after being carried about and remaining unburied for two years, was taken to Alexandria, *the great city which he had founded*, and placed in a temple built for him there. It was his expressed wish that he should be buried in the Temple of Jupiter Ammon, in accordance with his fancy that he was the son of that "god," but a higher propriety determined his resting place at Alexandria.

Such instincts were no more reasonable in ancient times and circumstances, than they are in the present day.

These are cogent reasons, apparent to the most careless observer, why Pennsylvania should pay this late, marked homage to the memory of William Penn. Her appreciation of his perfect fitness for the work, her realization of the enormous sacrifices which he suffered in conducting

and perfecting it, manifest a devotion to his memory, and suggest a right to dignify and perpetuate it, as she proposes. He was her founder—establishing and supporting her during infancy, through enormous pecuniary and personal loss. He made her the first and only colony in the New World, where religious toleration was enforced. . He gave her a code of laws, which yet serve as a basis for her government, and whose justice and wisdom have never been questioned. More than this: the calm, patient sagacity, the charity and the thoroughness, in his conception of the work, which were the distinguished characteristics of this great man, are yet perceptible in the character of the State and City, which owe to him their existence.

But there is another reason, not so apparent, which should be suggested, as equally impressive. Now, more than at any previous time, we seem to need the example which this man affords us. Now, when wealth and office are set up in every public place, as objects to be gained, by the sacrifice, if needs be, of honor and honesty and decency, the remembrance of a man who, in the glory and loftiness of early manhood, turned his back on courts, fortune and title, to serve God with a poor despised sect of religionists, and to surrender all worldly

gifts in the service of oppressed humanity, cannot fail to be purifying and elevating in influence. Now, when the heat and struggle are most fierce and pitiless in the market-place, brother thrusting brother aside to make room for himself; the interests of the unthinking and credulous many, in every class, sacrificed to those of the keen-witted and unscrupulous few; the widow and the orphan, the wife and child ruthlessly cheated and impoverished by the stealthy and disguised hypocrite, whose post was the natural guardian of the sufferers, for his own selfish and ambitious ends: waste and extravagance and other mal-administration, so reducing the possible number of beneficiaries of a charity, as to shut out many suffering claimants who have been long and anxiously waiting for its privileges; and that outright robbery which despoils the distressed and the helpless—whom God has given to us for an heritage, with positive claims upon our almsgiving—of the very necessities of life: When such things can be, it is needful that we should keep before our view this heroic projector of our State; a model of honesty and charity, who surrendered all his chances in life to serve men whom he had never seen, and who still continued to serve them when he received injury

instead of gratitude. His work is almost forgotten now, in his native country; but we, the five million people, who profit, after two centuries, by his sacrifices, are ready to offer him that tribute of gratitude and whole-hearted reverence, that was denied him, while living, by his own sect, which he so entirely trusted; and, now, by the English people.

Upon such grounds as these, the Legislature of Pennsylvania base their application to bring the remains of its great founder to Philadelphia, and there to deposit them as a most sacred trust, confident that their silent presence, during all future time, would prove to the hurrying thousands, who should pass by them, each day, a reminder of truth, honesty and heroic self-sacrifice, both powerful and ennobling to the minds and hearts of the people.

The proposed removal was a measure adjudged proper and honorable by eminent Friends in England, and universally by others, with whom I conferred on the subject, whose high standing and impartial judgment are not excelled by any in the kingdom. But I regret to say that the disinterment and transfer of the remains of William Penn were not approved by the Friends as a society, either here or in England.

It seems proper to me in consideration of the high authorities which directed and commended this proceeding; in consideration also of the special mission to England in furtherance of its success, and the long and persistent labors to achieve it, that this record should be made, as a justification of the motives which induced the action, and, also, of the steps which were taken to make it successful. No effort which could be made to secure the desired end was neglected; but every influence was used which could be brought to bear upon those, who have assumed control of the remains. That these efforts and influence proved unavailing was due to an inflexible resolve, decided upon before I reached England, and which made them deaf to all arguments; rather, indeed, unwilling to open their ears to receive them.

NARRATIVE OF THE MISSION.

*To His Excellency,
Henry M. Hoyt, Governor of Pennsylvania.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor to make the following report of my mission to England, by your appointment, for the purpose of effecting the offered transfer of the remains of William Penn to Pennsylvania, in furtherance of the request of the Legislature of the Commonwealth.

Your Excellency will remember that, upon the eve of my departure from England, where the transactions in this matter became widely known through the public press, and where erroneous views might, otherwise, have obtained, I distributed amongst a limited number of proper persons, a printed statement of the history of our application, the reasons for it, and the results. I took this course, in order to secure an accurate understanding of the question, and, thereby, an appreciation of the reasonableness of the action of the Legislature; believing that such recognition would,

sooner or later, accomplish a favorable answer to the resolutions of that body.

As the Legislature of Pennsylvania would not meet for nearly a year after the close of my mission, I ventured to request your Excellency to accept temporarily this publication, in lieu of the formal report which I should have the honor to make to you at a later time; and I thank your Excellency for the needed indulgence. I desire, however, to express my regret, that parts of my English publication appeared in our own newspapers; although it was intended solely for England, and was distributed privately, and with much circumspection.

REPORT.

On May 25th, 1881, I received from your Excellency the following letter:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Executive Chamber,

Harrisburg, May 24th, 1881.

DEAR SIR:

I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of a joint resolution of the Legislature in regard to the offered transfer of the remains of William Penn to Pennsylvania, by one of the Society of Friends in England.

Deeming that the contemplated removal can be most expeditiously and properly accomplished through the efforts, and under the superintendence of some gentleman authorized by the Governor, who will undertake the journey to England, and visit in person the parties named in the resolution, and others if necessary, I would be greatly obliged and pleased if you would accept the mission.

It will, of course, be a purely honorary service, as the resolution does not provide for such an agent; and I presume upon your kindness and public spirit, in asking you to assist, in a manner that seems to me better than a long and tedious correspondence, in effecting the object of the resolution. In the hope that you may find it possible to accept, and will permit me to send you credentials from this department, and from the Secretary of State at Washington, I have the honor to be, with great esteem,

Yours very truly,

To George L. Harrison, Esq., HENRY M. HOYT.
Philadelphia, Penna.

Fully appreciating the honor of being chosen by you for the delicate service, and possessing full confidence in the reasonableness and justness of the action of the Legislature in the matter, I accepted the charge, being satisfied that the grounds upon which the proposal might be based, were

abundantly sufficient to insure its success. During the intervening month, between the times of my appointment and departure from home, however, a number of incidents occurred to discourage my expectations; which induced me to express to you, by letter, serious doubts of a successful issue; but the hope, also, that my efforts might aid in the accomplishment, at a future day, of this laudable object.

The credentials which I had the honor to receive from your Excellency, were supplemented by others from the Department of State of the United States;—and the authorities of the City of Philadelphia, also, took occasion to make official request, through me, for the furtherance of the mission with which you had entrusted me.

These several documents having been obtained, and such consultation had with intelligent and judicious persons in this country, as seemed desirable, I sailed for England on June 22d, and arrived there on July 2d, 1881.

Immediately after my arrival in London, I sought an interview with Mr. Dillwyn Parrish, at whose suggestion this effort was undertaken, and I learned from him that nothing had thus far been done in the matter. I was informed, however, that

Mr. Penn Gaskill, a lineal descendant of William Penn by his first wife, was highly favorable to the project, and that he would encourage its realization. I had personal or epistolary communication with this gentleman, and all the other heirs of William Penn, either directly or by representative, and learned their views upon the subject. The "descendant in America," who promised success if he was appointed "commissioner," became actively opposed to it, when the appointment was refused. A more respectable opposition however, was entertained by Col. Stuart, a lineal descendant by the second wife, and a very honorable gentleman, formerly of the English Army, and a member of Parliament. A "repugnance" to the disinterment of his ancestor's remains was expressed by Col. Stuart for himself and other members of this branch of the Penn family. But this opinion was kindly given, and would not have been maintained, if the trustees of the burial ground had withdrawn their opposition. It may be mentioned here, that the Government of Great Britain dispenses an annuity of £4000 to Col. Stuart and his fellow heirs, in lieu of the Penn Estate in Pennsylvania, which was confiscated at the time of the Revolution. The qualified "repugnance" of these "heirs" may find

a reason in the declared opposition of the Minister of the English Government, hereafter referred to, who also expressed his doubt as to the right of Col. Stuart to receive this annuity.

I was desirous, in prosecuting my errand, to remember always, that I was acting for the Governor of Pennsylvania, and to avoid the possibility of the reflection upon your Excellency, of a want of proper intelligence or courtesy on my part, in dealing with the subject, and with those who had the authority to grant or to refuse the request of the Legislature. With this constant impression upon my mind, I sought and obtained many conferences with leading men in the councils of the country; members of Parliament, advisers of the Queen, parties otherwise distinguished; and, also with several prominent members of the Society of Friends, who called upon me, or upon whom I called, in order to learn individual opinion, and the grounds of the general objection of Friends to the undertaking. From all these persons, I sought for such conclusions as would result from an unbiased consideration of the question, and an appreciation of all the facts and circumstances bearing upon it. The invariable opinion of individuals, freely and frankly given, was, with one exception,

favorable to the success of my mission; the Friends, however, declaring that they must abide by the action of their Society as a whole. The “exception” was an eminent member of the Society of Friends, and also of the present Government of Great Britain. His argument was based upon the “grotesqueness” of the idea of disintering a human body, and the “cruel” design of separating the mortal remains of William Penn from those of Guilielma, his first wife;—indeed, a most noble woman, towards whose memory wrong or indignity might well be resented.

On the other hand, a distinguished nobleman, not of the government, but very closely allied to the Queen by other relations, expressed his own wish for my success, and stated, also, that the Queen would be glad to promote the object, if she could; but that it was not a *national* question. I ascertained that the Home Department of the Ministry, whose approval is required for the disinterment of the dead, would not interfere, if the consent of the Trustees should be obtained.

It seems, therefore, to resolve itself into this conclusion; viz., that Friends, as a body alone, hindered the accomplishment of the wishes of the peo-

ple of Pennsylvania, for the proposed transfer of William Penn's remains.

I think I may safely say, also, that the pre-determined hostility of Mr. Richard Littleboy to any consideration of our proposal, would not have met its parallel in any other Friend in England; that his omission to consult the ablest and most liberal minds outside, and even within the small body who constituted his committee of advice; his obstruction to a personal meeting of this committee with myself; indeed, his unyielding personal unwillingness either to consider, candidly, the subject himself, or allow his associates to hear and determine;—these unreasonable and ungenerous obstacles stood prominently forth as a hindrance to the fulfilment of a project which, as I have stated, was approved by individual Friends and others of the highest consideration, without reserve. Mr. Littleboy, a neighbor to the sequestered meeting-house and grave-yard in Buckinghamshire, by his own personal will, constituted himself, practically, the representative of the fourteen thousand members of the Society of Friends in England, insisted upon hearing, alone, and deciding for himself, — his brother perhaps included,—that the prestige of the presence of William Penn's remains in Jordan's

burial-ground was necessary for the conservation of that Society.

The sincerity of Mr. Richard Littleboy's convictions is not questioned, but only the propriety of the course he pursued in carrying out his purpose. This was, to say the least, discourteous and unfair. We sought only to make our application, fully and frankly, to the "Committee of Trustees appointed to receive it," and a personal interview was promised your representative, unless Mr. Littleboy's reasons for refusal were satisfactory. But, instead of this reasonable course, a formal denial of our "application" was prepared and printed, a week before even Mr. Littleboy and myself had met, or had written or exchanged a line of correspondence. The action of our Legislature, its approval and official encouragement by the government of the United States, and by the City of Philadelphia, the mission created by your Excellency, as a high measure of courtesy to the parties abroad, were responded to by the summary action which I have indicated.

It cannot be said that this objection is purely technical. Such admission would recognize the justice of any judgment which might be pronounced before a case was heard; and neither good

ethics nor equity of any sort would sanction such proceeding. And I am the more justified in this conclusion by a knowledge of the fact that more than one of Mr. Littleboy's committee of advice were not consulted in the matter from first to last; and, much more, that of all these advisers, I was allowed the opportunity of seeing but one, viz., Mr. Littleboy's brother.

The foregoing remarks are essential for explanation of what shall follow; and especially so, in view of the fact that the action of the Legislature and other public bodies on the subject, your own proceeding, and my willing acceptance of the agency to "properly accomplish" the united wishes of all, were based upon the expectation that the "transfer of William Penn's remains" would be conceded by all parties who had a right to consider the matter. This belief was based not only upon the propriety of the measure, but upon reasonable inference from the original proposition. Instead, however, of the "offered transfer" suggested by your Excellency, it happened that the earliest public suggestion towards affecting it, encountered strenuous opposition from those who had the power to prevent it.

I proceed now, to set forth to your Excellency

the actual proceedings of my mission. These must appear in the form of written communications between the parties directly concerned; the results of personal conference with others having been already suggested.

The correspondence was as follows:

Claridge's, London, July 16th, 1881.

Richard Littleboy, Esq., Chairman, &c.

DEAR SIR:—

You are already aware that I am here, in London, as the representative of the Governor of Pennsylvania, to ask consent of the proper parties for the removal to Philadelphia of the remains of William Penn, now lying in a leaden casket, in the burial lot attached to Jordans' Meeting-house. You will not fail to appreciate the reasons why I have not communicated with you sooner; but, being almost a stranger here, and necessarily unacquainted with the opinions of thoughtful and judicious men upon the subject of my mission, I have passed my time in informing myself of these, and discovering clearly the grounds of opposition, which are held by the Society of Friends, generally—which I partially knew before I left Philadelphia.

I think I am now advised of all the reasons which influence Friends in objecting to the plea of Pennsylvania; and, as far as sympathy with a sentiment can operate, I am altogether one with them. But regarding the matter as I do, solely as of public concern,—outside of family considerations—I am forced to forego emotional influences

in behalf of the public advantage. In fine, I cannot consider the question in a narrower compass than that of public right.

I may say, with pleasure, that I am informed of the kindly feeling which you entertain for the Governor's representative, and of the courtesy you will extend towards him. I am informed, also, that the Trustees of Jordans' burial-lot claim to have the legal custody of the remains of William Penn. As this, however, can hardly be of practical import, perhaps it is unnecessary to refer to the point; and I will only say that, without my application, I have been furnished with the opinion of a solicitor here that this claim cannot be maintained. I am also advised that you are assured that the descendants of William Penn are largely opposed to a compliance with the request of Pennsylvania. If this idea has at all influenced your action in the matter, I assure you that it is not substantial. None of the parties in England, I am confident, would oppose it, after such representations as can be presented; and the 'descendant' in America was most eager for its realization, until he failed to obtain the official right to effect it. Of this I have the evidence at hand.

I beg to say, in conclusion, that it will give me pleasure to meet you, if agreeable to yourself. It is true that we take different views of this subject, and that our disagreement is an earnest one; but there is no measure of opposition, which can possibly disturb my friendliness of disposition in the matter, nor weaken my respect for the candid opposition which you may manifest. Under my instructions, therefore, I shall be glad to produce to you the credentials with which I am provided, and to ask your consent to the application of Pennsylvania for the

possession of the remains of William Penn for interment in the city of Philadelphia.

Yours respectfully,

GEO. L. HARRISON, *Commissioner*.

Newport Pagnel, July 17th, 1881.

Geo. L. Harrison, Esq., Commissioner, &c.,

Claridge's Hotel, London.

DEAR SIR:

My prospective engagements are such that it seems needful I should write you at once in reply to your favour to hand this morning. To-morrow (Monday) I find I can come to London, and if it should suit your convenience, I purpose to call upon you at three o'clock, prompt. I shall then be able to explain to you the views and feelings of the Society of Friends, and also of others interested, in respect to your mission.

I shall also be able to hand you a definite reply to your application, which has been prepared by the Trustees of the burial-ground at Jordans, and by the Committee of the District Meeting of the Society of Friends, for whom we act. Should any prior engagement render it impossible to see me to-morrow, please to wire me at once, that I may get it prior to leaving home at eleven o'clock.

I am, respectfully,

RICHARD LITTLEBOY.

The meeting, thus arranged for, was held on the afternoon of July 18th, the 'deputation' referred to being Mr. Richard Littleboy and his brother. I have already explained the purely

introductory character of this meeting, and I was naturally surprised and offended to discover the immediate publication of this circular in the London *Times*, as follows:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

SIR:

The proposed removal of the remains of William Penn from their resting place at Jordans, in Bucks, to Philadelphia, having obtained much attention on both sides of the Atlantic, I beg to inform you that a deputation from the Society of Friends met Mr. George L. Harrison, the Commissioner from the State of Pennsylvania, in London to-day, and, after discussing the subject with him, handed in a reply to the application, a copy of which I enclose,

And am respectfully,

RICHARD LITTLEBOY.

Newport Pagnel, July 18th.

'Copy of the Third Minute of Luton and Leighton Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, held at Jordans, the 2nd of the 6th Month, 1881.

'This meeting having been informed that an application is likely to be made by the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the removal of the remains of William Penn from their resting-place in the adjacent burial-ground, appoints the following Friends a Committee to receive and reply to any such application, and desires not only that such an application should be definitely refused, but that the views entertained by Friends respecting it, and

the grounds upon which their refusal is based, should be plainly stated—namely, Richard Littleboy, Theodore Harris, Henry Brown and John E. Littleboy. James H. Tuke, of Hitchin, and Francis T. King, of Baltimore, are invited to associate themselves with the Committee.

‘Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

‘by JOHN E. LITTLEBOY, *Clerk*.

‘*To George L. Harrison, Commissioner from the State of Pennsylvania.*

‘The Trustees of Jordans’ Meeting-house and Burial-ground have received the application made on behalf of the Governor and Legislature of Pennsylvania for permission to remove the remains of William Penn, supposing that they yet exist, from their present resting-place to the city of Philadelphia.

‘The Trustees of the said Burial-ground have carefully considered the application, not only from their own stand-point as Members of the Society of Friends, but in a dispassionate and cosmopolitan spirit, and they have arrived at the conclusion that it is their duty to refuse it.

‘They respectfully submit the following considerations, which appear to them to justify the course they have determined to adopt.

‘The quiet and retired spot in which the remains of William Penn at present rest was selected by him during the vigour of life as the burial-place of himself and his family. He is there surrounded by his two wives and five children, and many of his most intimate friends. The Trustees believe that the choice thus made was altogether in accordance with the example of his unostentatious life. They believe also that the removal of his

remains to a Trans-atlantic home, amid the pomp and circumstance of a State ceremonial, accompanied in all probability by military honours and parade, would be utterly repugnant to his known character and sentiments.

‘The Society of Friends, to whom the Burial-ground of Jordans belongs, and for whom the Trustees are now called upon to act, have always objected to the use of elaborate monumental tombstones. For more than a century a rough plan of the grave-yard was the only available clue to the spot where the remains of William Penn and his family were laid. Guided by this plan, about twenty years ago small head-stones, bearing the names of the interred and the date of burial, were placed over the existing mounds, but it is more than doubtful whether they indicate in each case the exact spot of interment.

‘It need hardly be said that the memory of William Penn is honoured and revered among the Society of Friends in England as sincerely as in America, and the Trustees cannot admit that America possesses a priority of claim to the custody of his remains.

‘It is true that he became the successful founder of the State of Pennsylvania, and that the great sagacity and unswerving Christian principles which guided his transactions as colonist and Governor have gained for him the respect and admiration of the civilized world; but William Penn was born and died in England. In England his religious character was mainly formed. In England he was engaged for many years as a minister of the Gospel, and became conspicuous among the founders of a society, the influence of which has been largely exercised for good, both in this country and America; and, lastly, it was here that he dared to suffer persecution for his religious profession, and took his part manfully in

laying the foundation of that system of religious liberty which we now enjoy.

‘The Trustees are desirous of fulfilling in all respects the wishes of the society with whose interests they are entrusted, but with this reservation, they consider that they are the sole custodians of Jordans’ Burial-ground.

‘They have received communications from many influential members of the Society of Friends, and also from most of the lineal descendants of William Penn on both sides of the Atlantic, earnestly desiring that the proposal made by the Legislature of Pennsylvania may not be acceded to; and they believe that they are largely supported in the decision they have arrived at by the opinion of a very large proportion of those who have a right to be consulted in the matter.

‘The Trustees think that in carrying out the project, one link in the chain which unites the two countries would be broken. Their desire is that the bond may be strengthened, and that the only rivalry existing between them may be the promotion of those things which tend to peace and amity and the extension of the Redeemer’s Kingdom.

‘It is therefore from no feeling of discourtesy towards those who initiated the movement, but from a strong conviction of the soundness of the objections herein stated that they feel themselves compelled to refuse the application.

‘Signed on behalf of the Committee appointed by the monthly meeting, and of the Trustees of Jordans’ estate, by

‘RICHARD LITTLEBOY, Newport Pagnel.

‘THEODORE HARRIS, Leighton Buzzard.

‘HENRY BROWN, Luton.

‘JOHN E. LITTLEBOY, Watford.

‘11th of the 7th month, 1881.’

CARD TO THE 'TIMES' CONCERNING THE ABOVE
PROCEEDING.

Claridge's Hotel, July 22nd, 1881.

WILLIAM PENN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

SIR :

The communication published in the *Times* of yesterday, dated 11th inst., and headed as above, demands attention.

It is addressed to the undersigned, and states that my application for the removal to Philadelphia of the remains of William Penn had been received, 'carefully considered in a dispassionate and cosmopolitan spirit,' and, after much deliberation, had been refused.

'I beg to say that all this is strikingly incorrect. I had no communication with either of the parties to the document, directly or indirectly, until the 16th inst., when I addressed a note to Mr. Richard Littleboy, inviting an interview to show him my credentials, and to make the application referred to. The Governor of Pennsylvania had informed this gentleman that I was intrusted with the negotiation, and would conduct the correspondence, etc. On the 18th inst., Mr. R. Littleboy called upon me, in company with his brother, and produced copies of the circular as published, dated a week before, in print, and ready for distribution. This document and certain letters were read preliminary to our discussion. I expressed surprise that this course had been pursued; but, as I was unwilling to attach to the parties any suspicion of unfairness, and as I had no thought that a newspaper publicity was intended, from motives right

or wrong, and, as in parting, after a familiar interchange of views, I stated that I should formally answer their communication, my surprise at the obvious discourtesy and unfairness of the proceeding is very great.

The parties have informed the public that my application for the removal of the remains of William Penn to Philadelphia had been received by them, had been deliberately considered, and had been refused from a sense of duty, in a printed circular, embracing all these misstatements, issued a week before we had exchanged any communication whatever on that or any other subject.

If this singular act of impropriety had been done to me as a private citizen, I might have borne it without remonstrance; but I appear in this matter as the representative of the Governor of Pennsylvania, and with commendation of my mission from the United States Secretary of State to our Minister at London. For this reason I denounce the measure of discourtesy.

Of course, I can hold no further communication with the parties to this circular, and my reasons for the action of Pennsylvania must be given through some other channel.

At present I will respectfully ask you for a place in your columns for the foregoing statement.

Yours truly,

GEO. L. HARRISON, *Commissioner, &c.*

ANSWER.

THE REMAINS OF WILLIAM PENN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

SIR:

Will you allow me, on behalf of myself and brother, to disclaim any discourtesy to Mr. Harrison?

He seems to think we have acted precipitately in publishing our 'Reply.'

The facts of the case are these:—Towards the end of May, I read in your columns that immediate steps were to be taken to carry out the project. On the 27th of May I wrote to Governor Hoyt, assuring him that the Trustees of the burial-ground could not entertain the application. On the 27th of June I received a letter from the Governor's private secretary, acknowledging the receipt of my letter, with a copy of the resolutions of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, under the great seal of the State, in which the project was set forth in detail. The Trustees at once prepared their reply, which was handed to Mr. Harrison three weeks later, on the 18th inst. Prior to this no copy of the reply had left our hands. After the interview with Mr. Harrison we felt at liberty to give it publicity; indeed, it was necessary to do so in regard to the many communications we were daily receiving from both sides of the Atlantic.

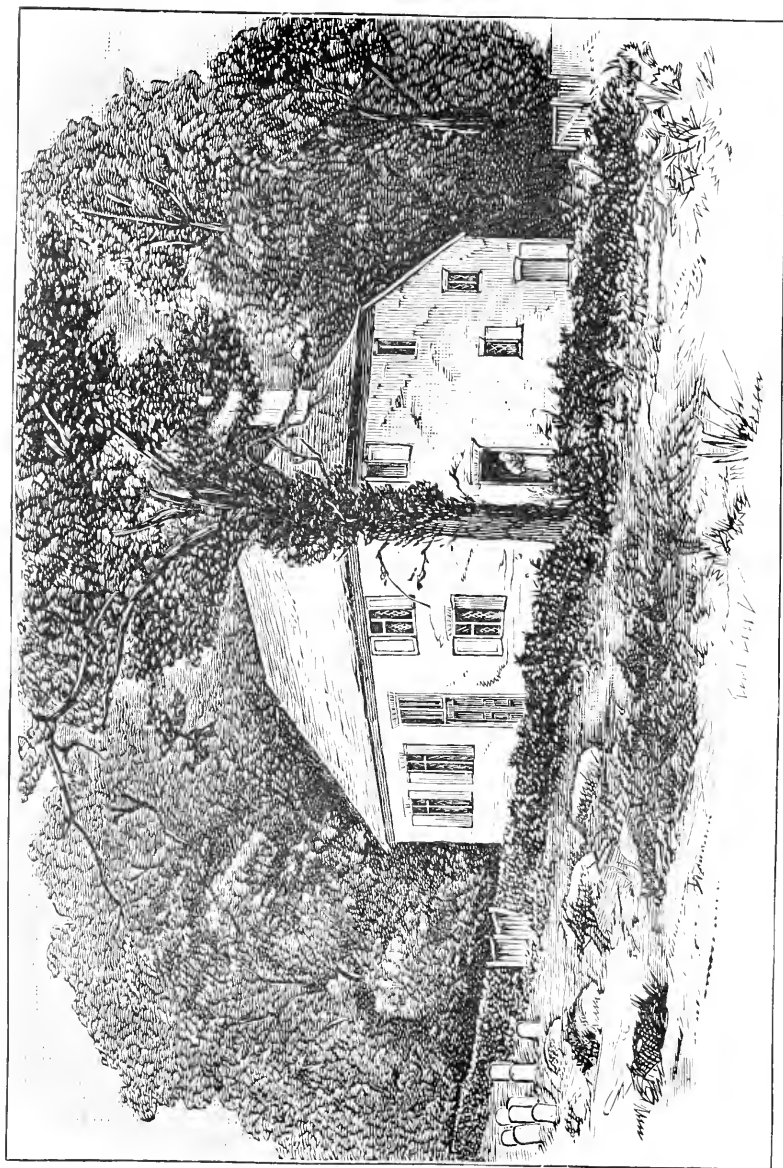
In conclusion, I may say that we wish to hold both Mr. Harrison and the country he represents, in sincere respect.

I am, respectfully,

RD. LITTLEBOY.

Newport Pagnel, July 22nd.

As the question of the removal of William Penn's remains was thus hurried before the public, without notice of the intention and so unexpectedly on my part, it clearly became necessary that I should assign reasons, incomplete as haste



JORDANS' MEETING-HOUSE AND BURIAL GROUND.

might make them, for the action of the Legislature of Pennsylvania and other official bodies. I therefore addressed, at once, this letter to the London *Times* :—

REMAINS OF WILLIAM PENN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'TIMES.'

SIR :—

As I have been hindered from the course I had expected to take in presenting the reasons which I entertain for the acceptance of the proposition of Pennsylvania for the 'removal of the remains of William Penn,' I must ask your favour to introduce them into the columns of the *Times*. It is true that the appeal was dismissed without a hearing, but I feel that the indulgence I ask is due to the several authorities who have accredited my mission. I am aware that I must abridge this paper in order to its publication, and that I must avoid categorical answers to much that has appeared in the *Times* recently.

I commence by saying that the reasons given in the circular of the Trustees of Jordans' burial-lot for refusing my request are based upon the idea that, William Penn having been a member of the Society of Friends, that Society, represented by the Trustees referred to, have an exclusive right to determine the question of the removal of his remains;—which theory I shall endeavour further on to refute.

The allegation that there is no certainty of finding these relics cannot be accepted, as charts of the description named could not, in the nature of things, be sufficiently inaccurate, and, besides that, it is quite certain William Penn was buried in a leaden coffin. This

latter fact, besides being known to the 'descendants,' is corroborated by Prince Butterfield, who prepared Hannah Penn's grave, and saw the leaden coffin, upon which she was laid. As to the opposition of the 'descendants,' an offer was made to Mr. Littleboy to allow acquiescence to depend upon their consent, and was refused. Passing now to deliver my message from home, I will say that the interest which my countrymen feel in this effort is shown by the action of the governing authorities of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and by the strong request of the United States Secretary of State to our Ambassador at London to aid me in my mission, expressing his assurance that my 'success would be no less gratifying to the American nation itself than to the citizens of Pennsylvania.' The ground upon which we base our application is that the public, here and elsewhere, have a right to look upon William Penn as a public man, and to use his memory in the most effective manner for the public good. We maintain, in the first place, that Pennsylvania is the theatre where his statesmanship was exerted to any extent, and the only spot where it was exerted with any measure of success; that what he gained by it in England was through personal influence with the existing powers, and that even this was lost when he left her shores. We think that the founder of a State which has steadily advanced under the form of government and the principles which he devised, to a measure of the highest prosperity, and in population to the extent of five million people, cannot be considered in any respect the possession of any mere religious society, or any part of a community, or even of a State; that whatever concerns such a man, whether living or dead, outside of family considerations, is a matter with which the public has a right to

deal, and we think that, in the case of William Penn, the voice of Pennsylvania should not be excluded. His 'primary laws' have never been abrogated there. The modifications, which the lapse of time necessarily creates, have neither changed their spirit nor their practical import. They still supply the wisdom and the inspiration which actuate the legislators of the State in the conception and creation of the Constitutional laws, under which the most substantial progress of the 'province' is secured.

The people of Pennsylvania desire to possess the remains of this their great public man, and theirs only in that relation; and, if you please—although I have no information on the subject—to lay them in a tomb in the midst of his own square, laid out by himself in the centre of the city of Philadelphia, where now are under construction its great public buildings, through whose avenues thousands must daily pass—as we believe to be elevated for good or restrained from evil by the inevitable consciousness of the high, and pure, and courageous character of the man, then before them, whose enlightened administration of city and province secured for them the honourable position they enjoy among the States of the Union. And it may be argued, as a reasonable measure, that William Penn, if I may so speak, has a personal right to the exaltation for good, which Pennsylvania proposes. There can be no argument against this proposition. It is recognised as just throughout the civilized world. The honour is due to the individual who has served the people, and the people are entitled to have set before them the most effective presentation of the opportunity of imitating a noble character, and studying the principles which created it. Neither painting, nor statue, nor memorial-

building will serve the purpose so well as a tomb which holds the ashes of the people's benefactor.

No statue or memorial tablet in Westminster Abbey so stirs our memories or influences our being, as the tomb within which the ashes of the good and great have been laid. This will be admitted without example. And as relates to Napoleon—for even this is quite appropriate to the argument—no statue of him, nor all the exhibitions of him and his exploits, which exist on canvas or in marble, will arouse the adherents of his dynasty to perpetuate it, like the tomb in which his relics rest in the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris. As matters stand now with William Penn's remains, no such effective process can exist. They lie in the lowliest hollow, at the very feet of two hills, in an unfrequented neighborhood, whose very existence is comparatively unknown. Until they were wanted in America, few persons themselves knew, or could readily learn from others, if indeed they cared to learn, where was their resting-place. When this intrusive stir of his distant friends is hushed, the apathy and the ignorance must perforce return; and, while forecasting this, I must be pardoned for introducing a congenial circumstance, well known, and the issue of it happily cherished, by the citizens of Philadelphia. It may be known also here, that at one time the statue of William Penn was established at the seat of a nobleman near High Wycombe. When the base suffered decay, the statue fell, and was sold for old lead to a neighbouring plumber. This neglected figure came under the observation of one of the grandsons of William Penn, who bought it of the plumber, re-established it—not in England, but in America—and it is now an object of lively interest to many who pass along the important thoroughfare upon which the grounds of the Penn-

sylvania Hospital—popularly called Penn's Hospital—lie; in whose enclosure this interesting relic stands, and has safely stood, perhaps for a century or more. And as to William Penn's 'mortal remains,' who can see the future? Who can forecast the changes which may occur to disrupt associations, both religious and secular, until the small, but honoured Society of Friends may not remain in sufficient force and numbers to care to retain the remote and almost undiscoverable Meeting-house, under whose shadow they rest—even to hold a session there, as now, once a year? All good men would sadden at such a prospect as speculative thought suggests, but the concern which its possibility involves cannot be wholly cast aside. For it must be remembered that as to the possession of William Penn's remains the 'Society of Friends' take issue against all the world. They must rest in Jordans' burial-lot until the tide of improvement sweeps over and obliterates them.

If but a moderate part of the foregoing appeal be allowed, should it not be cordially granted? and does not its success forecast the larger amount of good to humanity to be attained? Are not the citizens of Pennsylvania near enough in every important respect to those of the mother land, that these should not only justify, but encourage, the measure we desire? And will not they, to whom the idea brings repugnance, suffer the inconsiderable sacrifice we ask for, under the consciousness that his remains will dwell in a land where his name is now a household word, where their permanency would be assured, and where their presence would be promotive of untold moral benefits—a land also where we may reasonably suppose he expected that his 'bones' would finally rest; his letters declaring his intention when he last left

his native land for his adopted country, to fix his residence there for the remainder of his life?

The retention alone of his province, as is well known, forced his return to England. On all sides it would have been better if this danger had not called and kept him away. When in personal direction of the affairs of his province, his influence was complete, and peace and prosperity prevailed; when abroad, his subordinates departed from his ways, and losses and disorder followed; unfortunately, too, without any counteracting compensation in the mother land, for obloquy, debt, and imprisonment beset him there, until his strong heart was at length discomfited, and he sank into gradual oblivion, until death at length brought him relief.

I am very respectfully yours,

GEO. L. HARRISON, *Commissioner, &c.*

Claridge's Hotel, London, July 22.

At the expiration of a week from the publication of this letter, having received no further communication from any of the committee on Jordans' burial-lot, I addressed another letter to Mr. Littleboy; and a note, also, to a most honourable member of the Society of Friends, requesting him to take personal concern in having the 'Trustees,' as a body, give attention to my letters to the *Times* and to Mr. Littleboy.

LETTER TO MR. TUKE.

Claridge's Hotel, London, Aug. 3d, 1881.

James Hack Tuke, Hitchin, Herts.

DEAR SIR:—

I enclose to you a very kind and undeserved note of introduction from our mutual friend, Ellis Yarnall, Esq., of Philadelphia.

I have a most favourable knowledge of you, from your volumes on the Irish question, and I have been desirous of meeting you as one of those who are openly opposed to the success of my errand here.

Responding to the sentiment of the Governor of Pennsylvania, my highest wish has been to communicate the desires of our citizens and the reasons upon which they base them, in the most respectful, candid and kindly spirit to those who are opposed to the measure, viz., the removal to Philadelphia of the remains of William Penn. I think that I have, thus far, fulfilled such intention. On the other hand, however, I confess to pain and dissatisfaction received from the chairman of the Trustees of Jordans' burial-lot, who pronounced upon the case before a word had passed between us, although my coming was announced to him by the Governor of the Commonwealth, as his Commissioner in conducting the correspondence, oral or verbal, which might transpire.

My purpose in writing at this time is to inform you that I expect to address to Mr. R. Littleboy, chairman, to-morrow, a communication on the subject referred to, and to have it accompanied by my letter to the *Times*.

This act has become my duty; and my sole desire is that the two papers, although from necessity presented irregularly, may reach the Trustees, all of whom should,

I think, be made cognizant of the views most sincerely entertained by my countrymen.

I have feared that Mr. Littleboy, under the large liberty which has evidently been allowed him, might not consider it necessary to extend my communications beyond himself.

I remain yours very truly,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

Claridge's Hotel, Aug. 4th, 1881.

Richard Littleboy, Esq., Chairman, &c. Newport Pagnel.

DEAR SIR:—

I consider it to be my duty to communicate with you again on the subject which has recently engaged our attention, and to request you to convey to the body of which you are the Chairman, the candid and earnest consideration of the matter, as it presents itself to me after mature reflection; and I will thank you to hand this letter to your associates on the Committee. I am sure that my present approach to you might have been avoided under different circumstances.

I was not unmindful, before I left the United States, that great hindrances would beset me in the prosecution of the task which I consented to undertake, in sympathy with the wishes of the people of Pennsylvania, and from my respect to the Governor, who honoured me with the commission to represent him in the undertaking. And I trust that, even to the close of my proceedings, I shall not be found to have deviated from such a course, as the delicacy of the trust and the credentials which I bear, demand of me.

I came here almost a stranger to your people, but not a stranger to the theme which has occupied my attention. I feel myself to be cognizant of it in all its aspects; for I have not trusted, by any means, to my own views and feelings, but, having compared these with the reflections of thoughtful men whom I have reached in England, including members of your own Society, I have been prepared to discuss the question with you, with reasonable confidence and with entire respect for your own opinions; and my note to you of July 16th inviting an interview, expressed the candour and the friendliness which I desired should mark our interchange of thought on the subject of my mission here. I expected to have been allowed an opportunity of discussing a matter of mutual concern and interest, as is usual with gentlemen; and I did not anticipate that a decree would have been pronounced and promulgated in advance of the presentation of my petition and the grounds upon which it was sustained. I knew well my impotence towards effecting a favourable result against your will, but I trusted to the generosity which power may well allow, for an equality of relation between us during the discussion of a question of mutual concern, when the parties are always held to equal privileges. I regret to say that I have been disappointed. Your response to the friendly visit which I invited, turns out to have been the merest pretence of a conference—a show of civility to satisfy the exactions of even the least fastidious of the community. Is not such the record? Your printed circular, under date of July 11th, addressed to myself, states that you had ‘received the [my] application for the removal of the remains of William Penn to Philadelphia; had carefully considered it in a dispassionate and cosmopolitan spirit, and had re-

fused the application from a sense of duty.' This was printed and ready for the mail at least a week before we had a word or letter of communication on the subject; and the Resolutions of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which you claim to have received, and by which you attempt to justify your course, give no reason at all for the request. You acknowledge the receipt of Governor Hoyt's letter from Harrisburg, under date June 27th, announcing my prompt departure for London, and immediately upon its receipt you put in print the declaration that my application had been received, carefully considered, &c., &c. And, immediately on the heels of the preliminary conference, which you did concede for appearance sake, you publish in the newspaper to the unadvised public, your 'reasons for refusal,' &c., introduced by a convenient and friendly editorial, and satisfy yourself by this sham of information, by which the deluded public are made to believe that everything in the matter had been honestly, candidly, and fairly done. The natural apathy of the public may be contented with this delusion for the present—the question is so special and so old in its suggestiveness—but the law of compensation will hold in this as in other things, and the right understanding will prevail.

You will pardon me for these warm words. Perhaps you will presently admit that they do not need excuse. Perhaps, too, the few paragraphs, which I had liberty to publish, have given you a knowledge of what the Governor of Pennsylvania expected me to convey to you, viz., that himself and those over whom he is placed in authority are desirous to revive and to perpetuate, in a public sense, without in the least derogating from his eminent position as a religious leader of your Society, the well-

earned fame of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. Is not this a legitimate and a praiseworthy object? Is it right that William Penn shall continue to occupy the place in the public mind and heart which he now holds, so weakened by time and silence that its strength is almost inappreciable,—a gossamer web for the strong fabric to which he may well be compared? Is it just that Society should suffer wrong—that your own special branch of Society should suffer wrong, by the obliteration of the knowledge of a great character, whose example might, in the manner proposed, be portrayed for imitation by the public, and who fairly created you and established you by sacrifices and persecutions, as well as by his large wisdom and large humanity?

Being human, one cannot reject human methods, and the Friends have long recognized that truism. The dress, the speech, the manners which prevailed in your boyhood, have all become changed, and likened, in large degree, to those of the community in general. The simple grass-mound, which, formerly, was the only permitted tomb for a departed Friend, yields to the head-stone, which is now allowed; and why may not this, on similar grounds, yield, in time, to the “monumental tombstone,” which you now present as one objection to our proposal? The strong regulation which cut one off from your communion because he ‘married out of meeting,’ or, as the Right Hon. Mr. Forster says, in his own case, ‘for doing the best act of his life,’ has been wisely repealed—a proceeding which removed from your Society my own (latest) progenitor, and, consequently, cut off his descendants.

In the case before us, while no demonstrative show of expectation is manifest, the proof is before you that the highest officials of the several Governments of my coun-

try, the Councils of Philadelphia, the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and all whom I have met here or there, who were not Friends, have spoken outright in favour of the proposition which Pennsylvania makes; and I am confident that it should not be disregarded. Such a course is antagonistic to the judgment of the usual mind of thinking and conscientious men.

You cannot fail to know that, until within the last few months, the recognition of the lowly grave in Jordans' lot, which holds the remains of William Penn, was not an object which drew from yourself or others any stronger emotions, than the other mounds which surround it. Indeed you declare that the spot which bears his name at Jordans' may not even designate the place where they repose; and it is left to a stranger in your land to give information on this and other incidents, which relate to this once conspicuous man,—as I am advised from private sources, since my imperfect letter in the *Times* was published.

If, therefore, by elevating and extending the estimation of William Penn, not only for true and exalted statesmanship, but also as an exemplar of the simple, and the pure, and the brave characteristics of his Christianity—for the memory of these would always be suggested—humanity will be benefited, as it must be, and as Society declares to be the case, under the circumstances we have set forth, can you consent to have his memory perish, or at least be barely kept alive by the few reminders of him, which exist within reach of public recognition?

Have I failed altogether to suggest to you, even, that there may be some force in the presentation I have made of this interesting subject? Have I failed to interest, in my cause, even a few of the less restrained of your So-

ciety, who have not resolved to be 'still,' and confide the 'contention' to yourself? Will you continue 'shut up' to the 'reasons for refusal,' which you determined on, before I uttered a word by lip or pen, in defence of my plea? Have I not demonstrated in answer, in the first place, that public reasons outweigh the sentimental suggestions which compose the burden of the considerations which you offer for dissent? Can you point to a word from William Penn, which indicates that the spot where he rests was selected by him for his burial-place? And was not the selection of that locality made solely for a place of worship in time of persecution—under circumstances which do not now exist, and which can never return? And is it not an historic fact that, when he last left England for America, he intended to end his life there? And that his return to England was not voluntary but constrained? Have I not offered you the power to control the *manner* of the re-interment of his remains,—the Governor of Pennsylvania selecting the location? I repeat the offer. Have I not shown that there is no reasonable ground for doubt as to the exclusive condition in which his relics repose, and therefore that such evidence would be imperative? Have I not offered to make the consent of the descendants to the removal of the 'remains' a *sine quâ non* to its fulfilment?

Will not the bond of amity, to which your 'brother' in America refers, be rather weakened than strengthened by a refusal to the appeal of the several authorities, whose credentials I bear? Would this (mythical) bond not be confined to the Society of Friends to the exclusion of the public?

Will you tell me what answer I shall bear to the Governor of Pennsylvania, whose representative I am,

and to whose respectful and earnest message you have not answered a word, since it was delivered to you? Will Pennsylvania continue 'still' in such a case? For it will be remembered that a right to the custody of William Penn's remains is not conceded to the Trustees of Jordans; and it is not reasonable to suppose that his descendants will differ long as to the propriety of the removal of his remains to his old home and province.

I beg leave to associate with this communication my letter of 22d July to the London *Times*, on the same subject; and I ask you to consider them both, and return to me your acknowledgment of them.

Yours respectfully,

GEO. L. HARRISON,

Commissioner, &c.

I remained ten days in London, awaiting an answer to this second appeal, and was arranging for my departure, when, on the 15th August, the following letter reached me.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE REMAINS OF WILLIAM PENN.

*To Geo. L. Harrison, Esq., Commissioner from State of
Pennsylvania.*

DEAR Sir:—

I have duly received your letter of the 4th inst., and, at your request, the subject has been again brought under the consideration of the Trustees of Jordans' Estate.

I think that it will be best for me briefly to recapitulate the course that has been already pursued. On the 27th of June I received a letter from the private Secretary of

the Governor of Pennsylvania, informing me that he was directed by the Governor to call my attention to the enclosed certified copy of the concurrent Resolutions of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, requesting him to communicate with the heirs of William Penn, and with the Trustees of the churchyard, and with all other parties in interest.

The Resolutions referred to, officially declared the desirability of transferring the mortal remains of William Penn, original Proprietary of the State of Pennsylvania, etc., from the graveyard at Jordans in Buckinghamshire, to the City of Philadelphia, for public interment there. The letter further informed me that the Governor had appointed Mr. Geo. L. Harrison as his representative, to conduct in person the correspondence required by the spirit and letter of the Resolutions, and that Mr. Harrison would sail for England on or before the commencement of the month of July.

These important documents immediately received the anxious consideration of the Trustees. Completely at variance with your suggestion, the Society of Friends, and it might well be added a large proportion of the public, have always regarded the burial-ground at Jordans as a locality of special and very peculiar interest; and the Trustees felt that the application now formally made by the legislature of Pennsylvania, through Governor Hoyt, demanded from them a careful and courteous reply.

The conclusion they arrived at, was embodied in a document dated July 11th, and this document, in accordance with the expressed wish of Governor Hoyt, was personally handed to you by two of the Trustees, on the 17th inst. of the same month, at Claridge's Hotel. An agreeable and very interesting conversation ensued. At its

conclusion you informed the Trustees that you were about to pay a short visit to the Principality, but that you intended to send a written reply to their document on your return to London.

It may here be stated that the application had been repeatedly alluded to in the American papers, and much interest was excited respecting it, on both sides of the Atlantic. Under these circumstances the Trustees thought it desirable to publish the correspondence. They forwarded to the *Times* and other newspapers the document that had been previously handed to you, and they expected, whenever it might suit you to forward your promised reply, that you would adopt a similar course.

I will only refer to your letter which appeared in the *Times* on the 22d July to express my belief that, in all probability, you regret its publication as sincerely as I do; and will now proceed to notice very briefly the contents of your letter just received. Allow me to say, once for all, that I am sorry that you should have felt at liberty again to accuse the Trustees of discourteous conduct towards yourself. The statement now made completely disposes of any such accusation.

Your letter appears to suggest that both the Editor of the *Times*, and the Trustees of the Jordans property, are more or less dependent on yourself for their information respecting the subject at issue. Surely it cannot be forgotten that the 'Removal of the Remains of William Penn' has been prominently before the public for no inconsiderable time, and that all the channels of information are as open to them as they are to you.

The Trustees have every reason to believe that they are supported in their decision not only by the Society of which they are members, but by the opinion of the vast

majority of the *thinking* public, both in England and America.

It is very possible that some disappointment may be felt and expressed in Philadelphia. It is easy to understand that whatever is likely, in any way, to increase the prestige, or promote the prosperity of a great city, should be loudly welcomed by its citizens; but the Trustees do not consider that this is a sufficient reason to justify them in permitting the disturbance of a series of family graves, that have remained inviolate for nearly two centuries.

If it could be shown that the possession of the leaden coffin that is supposed to contain the remains of the founder of Pennsylvania, would more effectually impress his sentiments and teaching on the minds and consciences of American citizens, than the splendid edifice that they propose to raise to his memory, a *primâ facie* argument for its removal might possibly be maintained. The Trustees believe that no such result would be likely to ensue; that the voice of William Penn speaks just as loudly from beneath the green turf at Jordans, as it could do from under the shadow of a stately dome in the city of Philadelphia.

The Trustees consider it is not necessary for me to reply in detail to the varied contents of your letter. They have given it their best attention.

It sets forth very fairly, and with perfect justice, the Pennsylvanian view of the subject; but, with one exception, it barely touches the important considerations raised by the Trustees, and they cannot allow it, in any way, to modify the conclusion they have arrived at, with the nature and import of which you are already acquainted.

I am, very respectfully,

RICHARD LITTLEBOY.

Newport Pagnel, Aug. 13, 1881.

Claridge's Hotel,

London, August 15th, 1881.

Richard Littleboy, Esq., Chairman,

DEAR SIR:—

I acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 13th inst., and I thank the Trustees and yourself for this mark of respect which you have shown me. I notice, however, with regret that your concession is still withheld.

I have a few observations to make upon the contents of your paper.

I would ask then, if I have presented the case of Pennsylvania, 'with perfect justice,' as you admit, is it consistent to allege that her motives are directly the opposite from my assertions; especially that they are low and selfish? You may be sure that she needs no such extraneous aids as you suggest, to sustain or increase her 'prestige' or her 'prosperity.' And, while speaking of Pennsylvania, I will say of her Governor, that he could not possibly have requested you to place in my hands, in the manner heretofore described, the circular you mention. I must also say, that I never gave you reason to suppose, at our 'interview,' that my answer to that paper would be at all delayed.

The charge that the *Times* and yourselves were unacquainted with some incidents relating to William Penn, is true, but I disclaim all intention to impute a fault to you. I have already said that, in Pennsylvania, the name of William Penn is a household word. I have not found it so in England. But why bring in the *Times*? You surely seem to be a suitor for its favor. I have no contention with the *Times*, and have not sought its favor.

The paper has slighted me somewhat, and over-served yourselves. But this has not disturbed me. I read it, with interest, every day.

It seems strange that my reference to the fact that the remains of William Penn repose in a leaden coffin, should provoke the facetious jesting, which occupies the largest paragraph of your paper. I really meant to remove from the mind of yourselves and others, the only pronounced obstacle to the proposal to disinter them. You must surely remember your declaration that their very existence was uncertain, and that it was quite doubtful whether they could be found. I aimed to solve these difficulties; but my attempt was, no doubt by my own fault, obscure.

There are other observations in your present communication which might well be criticised:—which have already been anticipated in the, perhaps, ‘varied’ remarks of my letters, which your Trustees do not think it ‘necessary to consider.’ Perhaps you might find in these, some further answer to the ‘considerations’ you have published. I have reproduced one now, and I must still insist that “thinking” and impartial men will recognise ‘answers’ to them all. I am willing to rest my case upon this assertion.

I wish to say, in concluding my correspondence with yourself, as representing the Trustees of Jordans’ burial-ground, that I disclaim all feeling of offence; that my earnest words are not meant for bitter words; that I suffer great regret and disappointment, but that I part with you all in amity and goodwill.

Very respectfully,

GEO. L. HARRISON,

Commissioner, &c.

I have now concluded my Report of the Mission, with which I was charged by your Excellency. I am quite conscious of my imperfections, and especially of my inadequacy, as your representative. I can claim, only, that I discharged the trust to the best of my ability, and regret that the grounds for a hope of success were so feeble, and that the efforts, which were made on its behalf, failed to accomplish the desired result.

I remain, with high respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

Philadelphia, July, 1882.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Executive Department, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Office of the Governor.

Harrisburg, August 8th, 1882.

MY DEAR SIR:

Your report as Commissioner on the proposed removal of the remains of William Penn from England to Pennsylvania is before me. I have been over it carefully.

It afforded me much satisfaction, on a previous

occasion, to assure you of my high appreciation of the skill, efficiency and courtesy with which you conducted your mission to the "Trustees of Jordans' burial-ground."

We all can, now, only regret that the unanswerable views you urged upon them, failed.

Your report admirably and intelligently covers the motives and purposes of the General Assembly, and I am sure the people of the Commonwealth will join with me in acknowledging an indebtedness to you for a public duty well discharged.

You are entirely at liberty to print the report as suggested.

Very truly yours,

To Geo. L. Harrison, Esq., HENRY M. HOYT.
Philada., Pa.

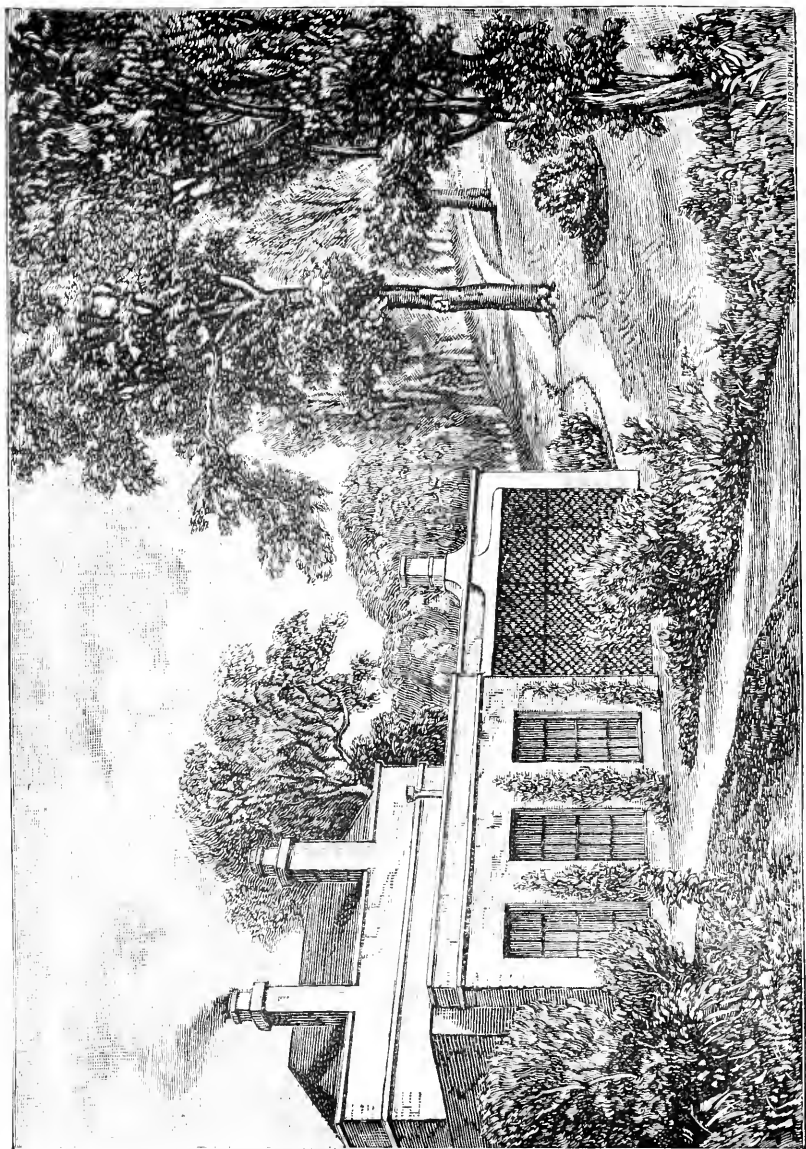
CONCLUSION.

I have now told the story of my errand to England, of my efforts to make it successful and of the determined "policy," which forbade such a result.

I have also endeavored to set forth the reasons, and to enforce them by fact and argument, which induced the General Assembly of Pennsylvania

earnestly and unanimously to recommend the undertaking. I hope, too, that I have fully considered the objections to it, made by the Society of Friends, have given reasonable answer to them, and have offered every concession to prejudice or peculiarity, which could be fairly demanded.

The future of this interesting question is, of course, obscure; but my own mind cannot resist the conclusion, that the time is not remote when all the responsible descendants of William Penn will agree to promote the wishes of Pennsylvania, and that equity, reason, conciliation will move the more generous and enlightened of the Society of Friends, to open the way to an honorable recognition of our claims; and that we may wait, therefore, in the confident expectation that growing obscurity will not long continue to darken the memory of the founder of Pennsylvania.



THE GRANGE. RESIDENCE OF ISAAC PENINGTON.

VISIT TO THE GRAVE, WITH INCIDENTS BY THE WAY.

I have already referred to the difficulty which exists in reaching the grave of William Penn. There are, even in the present generation, many travelers from America to England, to whom his memory is interesting and attractive, who would gladly make a pilgrimage to Jordans, if the information of its whereabouts could be discovered, like that of Eaton or Oxford; or of Chiselhurst, where lie the relics of a lesser personage, viz.: Louis Napoleon. But there are few in London, or at any point between London and the grave itself, who can point out the way to Jordans. It is possible that this little volume, which will contain a *public* report in relation to William Penn's remains, may be more largely read than past notices on the subject, from better-known and abler pens than mine; and I shall venture, by pointing out the way and investing it with some interest, to quicken the desires of some of the multitude, who travel, year by year, to the fatherland, to visit the shrine at Jordans.

The idea of transferring Penn's remains to Phil-

adelphia, has been repeatedly suggested, and has been, no doubt, oftener entertained. But it is certain that the effort to accomplish the removal has never before been made. An earnest hope on this behalf, however, was expressed in 1874, by Col. Forney, in an article for his newspaper the "*Press*," entitled "At the grave of William Penn," in which he says, "As we stood, on one occasion, on the steps of the house known as 'The Solitude,' in the Zoological Gardens of Philadelphia, I resolved to seize the earliest opportunity to gather materials for just such a paper as this, but I never supposed that my experience would be so full of interest, nor, indeed, that the great William Penn would be found in a spot so obscure, or that his name would be forgotten in the neighborhood where he lived and died. I am not without hope that the Friends of Philadelphia will take steps to remove the remains of their greatest leader to the State that bears his name, and to the City which he founded—in 1882. There is no place so fitting as Fairmount Park, and no time more appropriate for the ceremony, than the Centennial year."

Another visitor, writing some years ago, describes the hardships he encountered in finding his way to Jordans, and deplores the difficulty which

prevailed, in obtaining the "few hints" which were necessary "to visit the graves of this great and good man and his co-laborers in religious truth." He says further, "Arriving at the meeting house, we found it to be a one and a half story building of brick with a roof of tiles. A part of this structure is occupied by a family who has charge of it. The meeting house itself has nothing peculiar about it; the same raised seats for ministers and elders, the same rough and uncomfortable benches, etc. In front of the main entrance to the house is the graveyard. The stones which mark the graves are plain marble, about two feet above ground, and on them, plainly cut, are the names of those buried beneath. The whole place is badly kept, grass long and uncut, fences and gates dilapidated. A meeting is held here but once a year; in 5th month succeeding London yearly meeting."

My own experience in visiting the place was very interesting. I found the village of Slough, eighteen miles from London by the Great Western Rail Road, a convenient place to reach, and to obtain the needed "hints" to discover Jordans' graveyard. At the White Hart Inn, the lunch, the travel and the repose, if needed, can be provided with cheerful hospitality. The place itself may be

visited, directly, and a return to London made, in less than a half a day. But the interest will be enhanced by taking a more circuitous route, and observing certain scenes and recalling certain incidents, with which William Penn's name is closely connected; and the visitor will thus be better prepared to stand beside the humble resting-place of the venerable theologian and statesman, and contrast his once conspicuous greatness with the present obscurity, to which, in one respect at least, his memory is consigned. We adopt the latter course, and choose Stoke-Poges for our first halting place. These royal grounds—the possession of noblemen for centuries, and the temporary abiding place of the martyr king—always suggest the name of Penn, and are thought by many to have been, at some time, the residence of William Penn himself; but it is doubtful if William Penn ever trod upon the green turf of this grand manor; and it is certain that his ancestors never possessed it, although they were distinguished denizens of Bucks, and one of them, named William Penn—the great-grandfather of the founder—is buried in the chancel of the church, which stands upon the grounds of Stoke Park, and which holds the great Penn pew of olden time; distinguished alike by its largeness and its unique furniture.

These ancestors are traced back to the fourteenth century, as holding lands in Bucks and enjoying considerable influence. The name of John de la Penne occurs as a knight for the shire in one of the Parliaments of Edward II. The "William Penn" who lies buried in the church—the direct ancestor of the colonizer of Pennsylvania—was from Gloucestershire; the branches of the old stock, originally denizens of Bucks, separating, at length, into several counties.

William Penn, of Pennsylvania, never resided in the old county of his ancestors, although he was attached to that district, and occasionally had a temporary abode there. In 1760, however, a branch of the family returned to Buckinghamshire; the Hon. Thomas Penn, the eldest surviving son of the Founder, having bought the manor of Stoke Poges.

The circumstances now narrated, relating to the Penns, in their connection with Stoke Poges, have given rise to various erroneous impressions; as, for instance, that William Penn had been the possessor of Stoke Poges—that the pew in Stoke church was his father's family pew—that he had established the monument to Gray, etc., none of which are facts. Neither Sir William Penn, the admiral, nor his son, ever had a domicil in Buck-

inghamshire; nor had the latter, as many suppose, any part in the establishment of Jordans' meeting-house or grave-yard.

The tomb of Gray, in the rear of Stoke church, would not be recognized by any visitor, from appearance or inscription: none but those whose principal object in visiting the place should be to see the tomb, would discover, because of its simplicity, where the poet lay, nor identify it from the simple words which are imprinted there to his memory. His monument is a conspicuous cenotaph, distant from the church, and is inscribed with lines from one of his own poems. Not far from this lordly manor—which, but for its costliness, as reported, the Empress Eugénie would have purchased for a residence, in order to be near her friend the Queen of England, at Windsor Castle—stands the “home of Gray,” which is now a beautiful villa, with many marked attractions, besides the natural charms which characterize that region of country.

The admirer of the poet, however, longs to overlook the changes, and fashion, by his fancy, the “homestead of Gray” to its old-time simplicity and its uncultured native elegance.

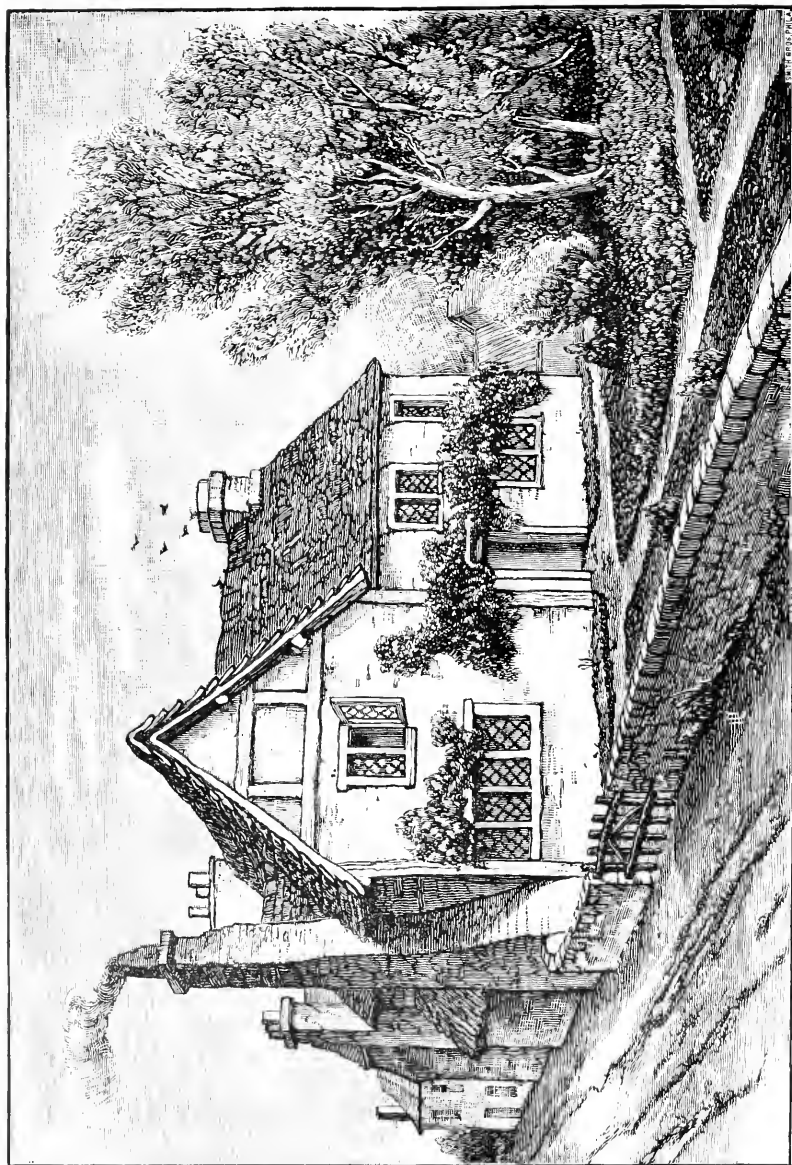
The drive along the well kept road, made full of interest by the picturesque scenes which it com-

mands, brings one at length to the "Grange," on the outskirts of the village of Chalfont St. Peters; the family seat of the Peningtons, who enjoyed great respectability in England, wherever known. The father of Isaac Penington, whose direct descendants have long had their home in Philadelphia, and held high standing there, both socially and otherwise, gave to his son this homestead on his marriage with Lady Springett, widow of Sir William Springett, a young and heroic officer in the parliamentary army, who died from exposure in the service, a few years after his marriage. Sir William left two children, the eldest being Guilielma, the future step-child of Isaac Penington and wife of William Penn; the beautiful devout woman, who, thereafter, with her gentle, unfailing courage, sustained him in his most heroic and difficult sacrifices.

The "Chalfont Grange" is replete with the most interesting memories which, directly or indirectly, are associated with the life of William Penn. Its possessor was his earnest friend and supporter in his religious struggles, and shared the imprisonments, which were the outcome of their constancy and fearlessness. It was in this family of Isaac Penington, also, that Thomas Ellwood, a co-worker

and sufferer in the same cause with Penn, became a tutor, and, for a number of years, gave instruction to his children.

Ellwood was not indifferent to the worth and beauty of Gulielma, but, with singular simplicity, he "restrained himself," lest it might be thought he acted unfairly, by taking advantage of his superior opportunities. Not far from the Grange, too, lived Milton, in a cottage in the village of Chalfont St. Giles, where he sought refuge from the drear plague, which then ravaged London. It was at the Grange, too, that William Penn found his wife in Gulielma Springett, having met her at her home there, on the occasion of a friendly visit to Isaac Penington, her stepfather, in 1670, at the age of twenty-six. It is believed that this was his first visit to that locality. The important sequel may be given in the following abridged record from the monthly meeting books of that district: "In the Twelfth month, 1671, William Penn, of Walthamstow, in the County of Essex, and Gulielma Maria Springett, of Tilers End Green, in the Parish of Penn, proposed their intention of taking each other in marriage." And, following this minute, "In the First Month, 1672, the consent and approval of Friends was given thereto."



MILTON'S COTTAGE IN CHALFONT.

The mansion of the Grange estate has been completely renewed, the concluding transformations having been made in the summer of 1880, when the superintendent of the work strove, with much effort, to point out to the writer, a small inner wall, which existed at the time of the Peningtons. It is now the property and the residence of Lady Mary Russell, whose husband is a Canon of the Church of England. The view presented here is that of the Grange of olden time.

The village of Chalfont, but little changed since this distinguished circle were near neighbors to it, comes next in our extended route to Jordans; and, crossing the limpid water of a wealthy spring, which flows across the road, we pass through this ancient hamlet, and, as we near the end, find Milton's cottage. This rude dwelling, like the rest, continues to retain all its original features; saving that a ruthless owner despoiled it of the porch, in which the poet held converse with his friends, and where Ellwood, his Latin teacher for seven years, often fulfilled his daily task, with a delightful reverence.

The interior of the cottage shows its age in construction and wear. No personal relic exists there, and one must employ the imagination largely to

enjoy the 'memory' of the illustrious poet, while sheltered within these walls.

Beaconsfield is the next point which must be sought, for the shortest approach to the grave of Penn, and the place is near at hand. It is a well-kept town of clean, wide streets and plain-built houses, and whose whole appearance repels the pleasing admiration of things not modern, which has grown and strengthened with us throughout our pleasant journeyings, until now. But the impression is soon lost upon leaving the place; for whichever way you turn, either towards the home of "Lord Beaconsfield," or the Burnham beeches, or Jordans' meeting-house, you will encounter nature in all its picturesque and romantic loveliness. Our course tends towards Jordans, directly on the route to our point of departure, and after some inquiries, vainly made, and some mistakes of our driver, we find ourselves almost within view of the goal we have aimed for; and turning into a descending lane, which is reached before we quite pass through Beaconsfield, we soon descry the plain white grave-stones, which point out the resting places of a few Friends, whose graves it was thought fit especially to designate. This was effected by Granville Penn, the last of his family,

who possessed that rural home of exceptional elegance and historic interest—the Stoke Poges Park and mansion.

Here, in Jordans' burial ground, William Penn's grave is identified by one of those simple headstones. It is set forth in a memorandum found amongst the papers of Rev. B. Anderson, late Vicar of Penn, who had the parish at the time of Hannah Penn's decease, that his old school-fellow, Adey Bellamey, and Prince Butterfield, an old man who attended the meeting, informed him that, "contrary to the rest, William Penn's head lies to the south, and the remains of his second wife, Hannah Penn, are laid upon his; also, that Prince Butterfield related that he saw William Penn's leaden coffin, when the grave was opened to bury his second wife."

The surrounding district is one of the most charming nooks in England, abounding in rolling hills with heavy forests of beeches between, and here and there, though far apart, a homestead grey with age. We stand, however, in an obscure little burial-lot attached to Jordans' meeting-house, in a secluded dell, in this most lonesome region of the country, sought out for a hiding-place, when the sect of Quakers dare not worship God, without

offense to the rulers of the land; and where such act, when known, was sure to meet with punishment. The place has long been neglected and, indeed, deserted. The rooms connected with the meeting-house are, it is true, still occupied by a man with his family, who is said to "keep the place," but he must also keep himself, for he receives no money for his services, and the "place" has been uncared for in the past, unless at the time of "meeting," which is held but once a year.

We leave Jordans with the feeling that we have parted with at least one of the tenants of these graves, whose relics should follow us to our own homes, where for us and for our descendants, they might forever prove an incentive to the cultivation of those many virtues, which were possessed by the great philanthropist and statesman who formed our city and our State, and established a government as perfect in wisdom and in honor, as the history of nations discloses.

Slough, the starting-place of our drive, is reached in less than half an hour, and then we partake of the repast which has been prepared for us; afterwards taking the train for London, and reaching, at length, our quiet abode at Mivart's.

LETTERS AND CREDENTIALS.

It has occurred to me that the history of the mission to England might not be complete without the introduction of some correspondence, which has been incidentally referred to, in my report to the Governor.

My communication with others was, in a large degree, personal; but the letters which I record, bear directly upon the subject, and I have ventured to abridge a few of them, in order to point their meaning distinctly. Many are excluded either to avoid repetitions, or because of their claims to privacy.

CREDENTIALS.

HENRY M. HOYT, GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

To all to whom these presents shall come, sends greeting :

WHEREAS, In view of the approaching Bi-Centennial celebration of the settlement of Pennsylvania, and the ardent desire of its citizens to commemorate that event by the removal of the remains of William Penn for final repose amid the most enduring monuments of his fame, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, have passed the concurrent resolution, a copy of which is hereto annexed :

Now, therefore, I, Henry M. Hoyt, Governor of Pennsylvania, reposing especial trust in the judgment, integ-

city, and patriotism of George L. Harrison of the city of Philadelphia, do commission him, as the personal representative of the Governor, to conduct the correspondence and conclude the matters contemplated in the concurrent resolution aforesaid, and do hereby commend him to the good offices of all those in authority and in interest in England, that they may assist him in the performance of his mission on behalf of the authorities and people of this Commonwealth.

M. S. QUAY,

By the Governor.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

ACTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILS OF PHILADELPHIA.

Resolutions relative to the Transfer of the Mortal Remains of William Penn from England to America.

Whereas His Honour the Mayor of the City, by a message presented June 2d, informed Councils that the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania had passed resolutions expressive of a desire to have the mortal remains of William Penn transferred from their present resting-place in England to the City of Philadelphia, in which resolution he heartily concurred: And whereas: In pursuance of the action of the State Legislature his Excellency the Governor has commissioned our fellow-citizen George L. Harrison to proceed to England and make arrangements with the heirs and other friends to have the remains of William Penn conveyed to our city; therefore—

Resolved by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That we approve of the action of our State authorities, and do hereby request and authorize His Honour the Mayor to issue, under the Corporate

Seal, a Commission to the said George L. Harrison to represent this City in the matter herein referred to.

Approved by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, this 14th day of June, 1881.

(Attest.) JOSEPH H. PAIST,
Clerk of Select Council.

FROM U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE TO MINISTER LOWELL.

*Department of State,
Washington, June 11th, 1881.*

*Mr. James Russell Lowell,
Minister of the United States,
At London, England.*

MY DEAR SIR:

At the instance of His Excellency Henry M. Hoyt, Governor of Pennsylvania, I have much pleasure in presenting herewith to your personal acquaintance the Honourable George L. Harrison, a reputable, prominent, and public-spirited citizen of Philadelphia. Mr. Harrison has been commissioned to proceed to England, for the purpose of negotiating with the heirs of William Penn, original proprietor of the State of Pennsylvania, and founder of the City of Philadelphia, for the transfer of his mortal remains to the United States, and their public re-interment in that City, in accordance with the provisions of a Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of that Commonwealth, approved May 16, 1881, to that end.

It would be no less gratifying to the American Nation itself, than to the citizens of Pennsylvania; and highly creditable to the public spirit and patriotic sentiments of a former native of Philadelphia, at whose sole expense

the removal in question is to be prosecuted, should the efforts of Mr. Harrison be crowned with success. I have therefore to cordially commend him to your favorable consideration, in connexion with his proposed visit to England, and to request that you will extend to him every assistance, compatible with your official duties, which it may be possible for you to contribute towards the successful attainment of his mission while abroad.

I am, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

LETTERS.

FROM D. PARRISH TO THE HON. JOHN WELSH, PHILADA.

*Hotel Bellevue,
Dresden, May 23d, 1881.*

DEAR SIR:

A rather prolonged absence on the Continent is my excuse for not sooner writing to you, and thanking you for the interest you have taken in the project of the removal of the remains of Penn.

I am happy to inform you that Mr. Penn Gaskell has given his most hearty approval, and promises his support in the matter; and I am only waiting until I return to London, and the arrival of the resolutions which, Mr. Wallace writes me, have been passed by the Historical Society, to set vigorously to work, and I have little doubt of success.

Hoping that you are in the enjoyment of good health,
I remain yours very truly,

D. PARRISH.

MR. G. L. HARRISON TO PETER PENN GASKELL, ESQ.

*Claridge's Hotel,
London, July 5th, 1881.*

Peter Penn Gaskell, Esq.

DEAR SIR:

I beg leave to hand you the Resolutions of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in relation to the removal of the remains of William Penn. The main object of my visit to England will thus be made known to you, and I will thank you to give me an opportunity, at your earliest convenience, of a personal interview with you on this subject.

I am very truly and respectfully yours,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

FROM D. PARRISH TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

*Southborough Lodge,
Brickley, Kent, July 6th, 1881.*

*Geo. L. Harrison, Esq.,
Claridge's Hotel.*

DEAR SIR:

Yesterday Mr. P. Penn Gaskell called at my office, and we had a few minutes conversation, in which he expressed surprise, that you had actually arrived in London, as he thought you were only about leaving Philadelphia. He also said he had received a letter from Col. Stuart which he would like to show me; the purport of it was that he (Col. Stuart) had no very decided opinion about the removal of Penn's remains, and would not oppose it. I will endeavor to call on you within a day or two, when we can talk the matter over.

I remain yours very truly,

D. PARRISH.

GEO. L. HARRISON TO D. PARRISH.

Claridge's Hotel, July 7th, 1881.

D. Parrish, Esq.

DEAR SIR:

I have your note of this day's date, and think that Col. Stuart's acquiescence will remove the main hindrance to our success.

I wrote to Mr. P. Penn Gaskell yesterday morning, requesting an interview, when and where it might be convenient to him, but I have not, thus far, had an answer.

It is my intention to communicate with Col. Stuart to-morrow. I propose, after a formal interview with these gentlemen, to ask them to meet yourself and me, and I hope that we shall all be in agreement in the matter which interests us.

Very truly yours,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

GEO. L. HARRISON TO COL. STUART.

Claridge's, London, July 7th, 1881.

*Col. Stuart, of Tempsford Hall,
Sandy, Bedfordshire.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of informing you that I have arrived here from Philadelphia, being commissioned to represent the Governor of Pennsylvania, in fulfilment of the duty imposed upon him by the Legislature of that State, to obtain the consent of yourself and others, in authority, for the transfer of the remains of your renowned ancestor, William Penn, for re-interment in the City of Philadelphia, which he founded. I desire to hand you the Resolutions of the Pennsylvania Legislature on

the subject, and to show you the credentials which I possess, recommending my mission to your favorable consideration. Requesting your kind attention to this note, and the favor of an interview at such time and place as may be convenient to yourself, I remain, with high respect, your obedient servant,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

JOHN WALTER TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

40 *Upper Grovenor St.*, July 8th, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have spoken to Sir R. Assheton Cross, Mr. Bright, and Mr. George Palmer on the subject of your mission. The Home Secretary has no initiatory power in the matter; he can simply give his consent to the proceeding, when it is agreed to by the parties interested. Mr. Bright thought that the Trustees of the burial-ground, Mr. Littleboy in particular, would positively refuse their sanction.

Mr. George Palmer took a more hopeful view of the case, and thought that there were no insuperable difficulties on the score of religious scruples on the subject; and that the chief objection would be that of removing an English subject, as Penn was, to American soil. Mr. Palmer will probably call upon you at Mivart's.

I am, very truly,

G. L. Harrison, Esq.

J. WALTER.

COL. WM. STUART TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

Temptsford Hall, Sandy, July 9th, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR:

I regret very much that it is out of my power to see you down here now, as I am going abroad

in two days, for some weeks. But should your stay in England be continued until my return, about the middle of August, I shall be most pleased if you will come down here for a few days. With regard to the object of your visit, I cannot help you. Personally, I have no interest with the ruling powers, and as one of the descendants of William Penn, I feel, with others of my branch of the family, great repugnance to the idea of disturbing or removing his remains. However, the custody of them rests with others than the family, but I believe they are not disposed to encourage any attempt at removal. Hoping I may have the pleasure of a visit from you on my return from Kissingen,

Believe me very faithfully yours,

G. L. Harrison, Esq.

WILLIAM STUART.

GEO. L. HARRISON TO COL. STUART.

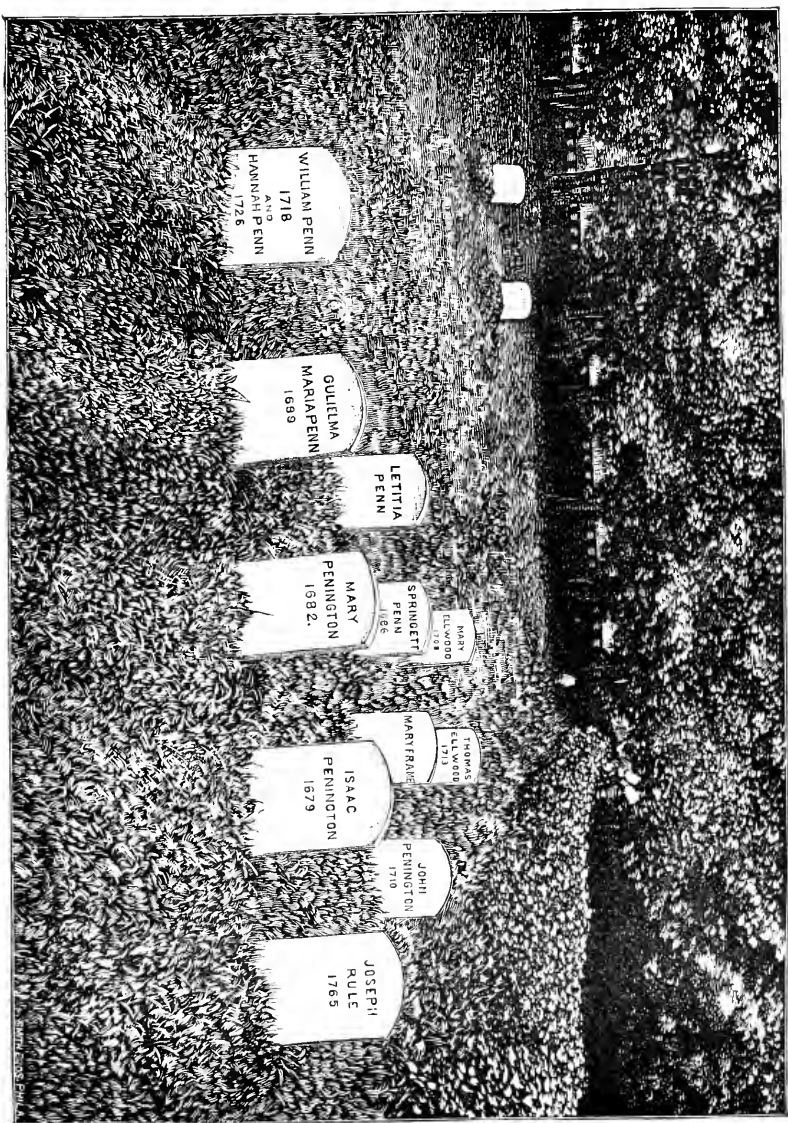
Claridge's, London, July 11th, 1881.

Col. Stuart,

MY DEAR SIR:

Your very frank and welcome letter of 9th inst. is received, and I thank you for your kind invitation to Temptsford Hall, on your return from Kissingen. I shall be disappointed not to meet you before I leave for the United States, because I am earnestly desirous of placing before you the views which are entertained by my countrymen, in asking for the presence in their midst of the remains of your ancestor, William Penn.

I have not come here to antagonize anyone, even the most interested or determined advocate of keeping what is mortal of the great man,—which should be suggestive of noble aspirations and enlightened statesmanship,—in



WILLIAM PENN
1718
AND
HANNAH PENN
1726

GUILLEMA
MARIA PENN
1699

LETTIA
PENN

MARY
PENNINGTON
1682.

SPRINGETT
PENN
1686

MARY
ELLWOOD
1708

MARY FRANK
1713

THOMAS
ELLWOOD
1713

ISAAC
PENNINGTON
1679

JOHN
PENNINGTON
1710

JOSEPH
RULE
1765

THE GRAVE OF WILLIAM PENN.

the obscure spot and almost indistinguishable situation, in which his burial place remains to-day. I well know and I highly respect, for its sincerity and candor, the sentiment which influences those who have the "custody" of the remains of Wm. Penn; but this sentiment, I am sure, is not shared by the reflecting public, whose views are not colored by the peculiar conceptions of that most respectable class of the community; and but for the tenderness of feeling, which naturally affects yourself and others of your family, the "repugnance" which you feel, in view of disturbing the remains of your ancestor, for re-interment where great social and political advantages would be derived from it, would not, I confidently trust, be entertained. I shall not, at this time, discuss further this interesting matter, but in the uncertainty of meeting you, I venture to throw out the foregoing suggestions; and I cannot doubt that the time will come, when there will be a united desire to have the tomb of Wm. Penn removed to a scene where, alone, his statesmanship was displayed, where the memory of it will be continually revived, with fruitful benefits, and where his nobility and virtues of position and character will be properly manifested.

I am most truly yours,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF R. LITTLEBOY.

"It seems to me to be my place to wait until Mr. Harrison puts himself in communication with me. After a private interview, if I fail to satisfy him as to the views of Friends, supported as they are to a large extent, by William Penn's lineal descendants, I will summon the committee to meet him in London."

PETER PENN GASKELL TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

London, July 13th, 1881.

DEAR MR. HARRISON:

As promised, I enclose Col. Stuart's letter, together with a full correspondence between Mr. Littleboy and myself. I have seen my legal adviser to-day, who promises to let me have an opinion upon the rights of the Trustees of Jordans, in a day or two.

He thinks (without consultation) that the Trustees have no manner of right to the remains, when the legal representatives have consented. I shall communicate with you as soon as I hear further from him.

Yours very truly, etc.,

PETER PENN GASKELL.

LETTER FROM P. PENN GASKELL TO R. LITTLEBOY.

London, July 6th, 1881.

DEAR SIR:

I have received your favor of the 27th ult., which, after some delay, has reached me. I find myself in a very peculiar and difficult position with regard to the removal of Wm. Penn's remains. While doing full justice to the feelings which prompt you to express the opinion you have, I cannot fail to recognize the claim of a population expressed through their legal representatives, and cannot quite see that I or any individual has a right to stand between the popular wish and its attainment. Wm. Penn's ashes lie in this country almost unknown and unhonored; there are those who wish to place them in a shrine, to serve as an example of honesty and uprightness of character to millions, among whom his name is a household word. I cannot see how I can

honestly oppose such a laudable object. I shall be glad to hear further from you upon this subject, and must express my doubts as to the Trustees of the burial ground having sole authority in this matter.

Believe me, etc., yours very faithfully,

PETER PENN GASKELL.

FROM JNO. E. LITTLEBOY TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

Hunton Bridge near Watford,
July 19th, 1881.

DEAR SIR:

When conversing with my brother and self yesterday, I understood you to say, that you possessed evidence establishing the fact, that at one period of his life, William Penn personally desired that he might be buried in America. I venture to offer one or two remarks on this phase of the question. Had William Penn died during his short visit to America I think it may be accepted as a moral certainty that he would have wished to be buried on your side of the Atlantic. It is inconsistent with his well-known views to suppose that under any circumstances, he would have left directions for the removal of his remains to England. However sincerely he may have desired to rest beside his beloved and charming wife in the picturesque burial-ground at Jordans, he would have felt the inconsistency of such a course, and would naturally have refrained from adopting it.

It is therefore extremely probable, when contemplating the possibilities of death during his tarriance in America, that he might have made such arrangements for his interment as he considered, under the circumstances, to be necessary or desirable; but assuming that such was actu-

ally the case, I think you will admit that it does not in the smallest degree invalidate the correctness of our statement, that William Penn selected Jordans, during the vigour of his life, as the burial place of himself and family.

Believe me, dear sir, yours truly,

JOHN E. LITTLEBOY.

*Geo. L. Harrison, Esq.,
Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street,
Grosvener Square, London.*

COPY OF CABLEGRAM TO GOVERNOR HOYT.

London, July 22d, 1881.

*Governor Hoyt,
Harrisburg, Pa.,*

Littleboy publicly announces receipt of "application" before seeing or hearing from me, directly or indirectly.

GEO. L. HARRISON.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

Harrisburg, July 24th, 1881.

*Hon. Geo. L. Harrison,
care of J. S. Morgan & Co.,
London, England.*

I have entire faith in your ability to vindicate the good faith of your mission, and fully approve your conduct and position; no responsibility for failure will attach to you.

HENRY M. HOYT.

GEO. L. HARRISON TO DILLWYN PARRISH.

*Dillwyn Parrish, Esq.,**July 29th.*

DEAR SIR:

I thank you for your letter of yesterday. I wrote Col. Stuart on last Saturday, before leaving London, directing to his residence, and requesting that my letter be forwarded. I expressed my desire to see him on his return, in the middle of August. I am considering the question now, of a hearing by the whole body of Trustees. I think it highly important to have the legal "opinion," and also to meet Col. Stuart. It would give me a fine basis for a letter to the Trustees. We should have an enormous influence with the public, whose sympathies and interest would be gained, when we could show that we had the family and the law on our side.

Yours truly,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF GEO. L. HARRISON TO
DILLWYN PARRISH.*July 27th, 1881.*

I hope that you will show the utmost value to the judgment of Mr. Penn Gaskell, for he is a most important friend to our effort. Consult him in whatever matter I confide to you. There has been no *personal* aid outside of Mr. Gaskell, to make operative with the Friends. I have the approval of individual Friends, as well as of public men, Mr. P. and others; but personal help is another thing. One other important point is to have a favorable opinion as to the rights of the descendants on the question.

Without the consent of the most important of these,

and without the law on our side, the Home Secretary would not give his approval. J. B. in the cabinet would be sufficient to settle a doubtful point.

I hope this opinion will be obtained. I will gladly pay for it.

Yours truly,

GEO. L. HARRISON.

DILLWYN PARRISH TO GEO. L. HARRISON.

London, July 28th, 1881.

*Geo. L. Harrison, Esq.,
Hotel Meurice, Paris.*

DEAR SIR:

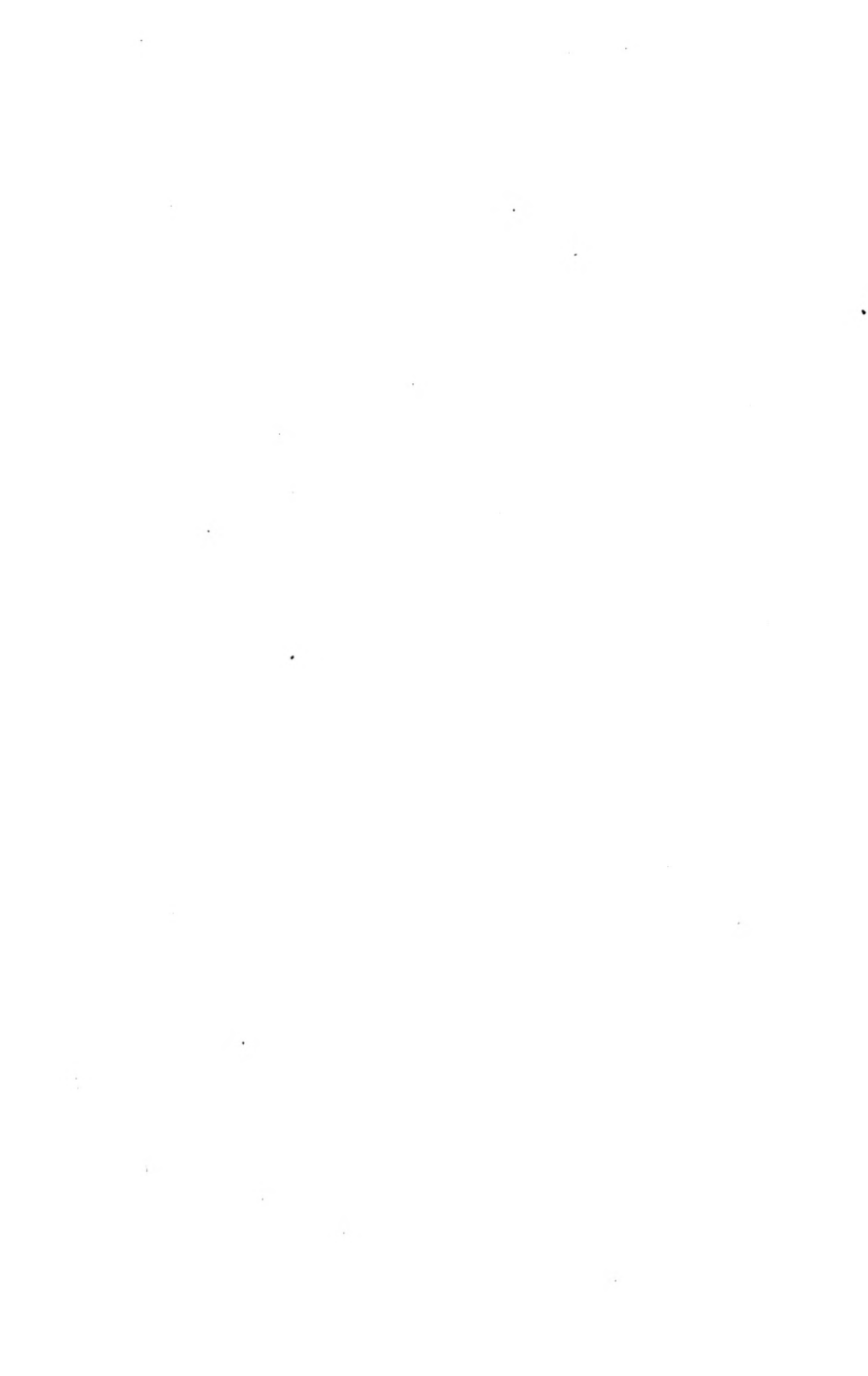
I did not receive your letter of 26th in season to send to the *Times* office, so that the article would appear in to-day's issue. I have little doubt that it will appear in that of to-morrow. I think it a very good answer to Mr. Litteboy, and exposes very clearly his precipitancy and his discourtesy in giving premature publication to the "circular."

I do not think, however, that the public take much interest in the matter; and the interest of the Society of Friends is so unquestionably to retain the remains over here, that you are right in believing that any further newspaper publications would be useless. I agree with you that it is now a question of influencing the representatives of the family to make the demand upon the Home Secretary. I shall endeavor to see Mr. Gaskell and get from him counsel's opinion, as you request.

I remain yours, very truly,

D. PARRISH.





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